

# 2009-2010 HUNTING GUIDE TO INDIAN BAYOU

## WELCOME TO INDIAN BAYOU

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District welcomes you to the Indian Bayou Area located in South-Central Louisiana. The Indian Bayou Area was established in 1995 to provide public access and environmental protection in the Atchafalaya Basin. The area encompasses 28,500 acres located in St. Landry and St. Martin parishes and is located between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, north of Interstate 10 and south of U.S. Hwy 190, west of the Atchafalaya River.

Indian Bayou is located in the heart of the Atchafalaya Basin and offers some of the finest bottomland hardwood forest hunting in the South. It offers excellent small game hunting including squirrel, rabbit, woodcock, snipe and mourning dove. The prime location of the Atchafalaya Basin in the center of the Mississippi Flyway produces superb waterfowl hunting. The 2009-2010 season will be the eleventh consecutive year of management under an antler restriction for white-tailed deer.

It is your responsibility to know the hunting seasons and regulations. Please read through this hunting pamphlet prior to hunting for your safety and the safety of the other project visitors. Project boundaries are marked with yellow paint and yellow carsonite posts.

Hunter participation and wildlife harvest data are vital to the successful management of wildlife resources. Complete and accurate harvest information will aid in future management decisions. Volunteers are needed on the project. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by or contact the Project Office for more information.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

Hunting regulations are designed to protect visitors as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting on Indian Bayou, under the authority vested by Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 part 327. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following conditions.

### *Permits*

A 2009-2010 Indian Bayou Hunting Permit is required for all persons regardless of age. Permits must be signed prior to hunting any game and must be carried at all times while in the field. Your hunting permit acknowledges your understanding of area regulations. The cut-out on the cover of this brochure is your annual permit. All persons 16 years or older are required to have a photo identification while in the field.

### *Firearms*

The possession of firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons are prohibited except during designated area hunts. Hunters must have firearms unloaded at all times while traveling within the area by motor vehicle, ATV, horse, bicycle and while in a vessel under mechanical power. Loaded weapons are not allowed within 100 feet of designated ATV trails, foot trails, and roads; or within 100 yards of designated parking areas. Loaded is defined as shells or cartridges in the gun's chamber, magazine, cylinder or clip when attached to firearms or crossbows cocked and in the ready position, or caps on muzzleloaders.

### *Motorized vehicles and All Terrain Vehicles*

All motorized vehicles, including automobiles, ATVs and motorcycles are restricted to roads and trails that are designated on the area map. ATVs must be brought in to the area by vehicle or trailer, off loaded in parking areas and may only be operated on designated trails. Vehicles must park in designated parking areas. Blocking gates or roads with a vehicle or ATV is prohibited. Tractor implement tires with farm tread designs R1, R2 and R4, known as spade or lug grip types are prohibited on all vehicles and ATVs. ATV tires are restricted to those with a maximum one inch lug height. ATVs are not allowed off designated trails, NO EXCEPTIONS! Designated trails are open from 4:00 a.m. until two hours after sunset. Visitors using designated trails later than two hours after sunset are required to contact the project office to obtain a Special Use Permit.

## **SPECIFIC HUNTING REGULATIONS**

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only open seasons are those listed in this brochure. Hunting is permitted area-wide except in designated closed areas as indicated on the area map. All hunting shall be still-hunting, except as otherwise specified.

Migratory bird and small game hunting is prohibited during either-sex gun hunts for deer except waterfowl hunting is allowed Jan. 16-17.

Archery season is either-sex except during bucks-only seasons.

Deer hunters are limited to one deer per day. A legal buck shall be defined as deer with at least 4-points on one side or a deer with unbranched antlers commonly referred to as spikes (no minimum length). To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and its length must exceed the length of its base. The beam tip is counted as a point but is not measured as a point.

Proper use of state tags is required. All deer harvested during gun hunts are required to be physically checked out. The East side Ranger Station located in St. Landry Parish (see map for location) will be staffed during each of these dates. A Park Ranger patrolling the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee may also check a deer during the either-sex gun hunts. Every checked deer will be given a metal validation tag and reported to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for your convenience. Successful archery and primitive weapon hunters are required to fill out a deer harvest card prior to leaving the property. Harvest cards are located on area information bulletin boards.

All users EXCEPT waterfowl hunters must display a total of 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" and wear a "Hunter Orange" cap during the open gun and primitive weapon hunts for deer. Hunters participating in the dog season for rabbit, squirrel, and woodcock must wear a minimum of a "Hunter Orange" cap. Hunter orange must be worn the entire time while in the field. All users afield during all other hunting seasons are encouraged to wear "Hunter Orange." Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds are still required to wear 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" wear a "Hunter Orange" cap and must also display a minimum of 400 square inches of "Hunter Orange" above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

Horses are permitted throughout the property EXCEPT during open gun and primitive firearm hunts for deer and turkey.

Beaver, hogs, nutria and coyote may be taken incidental to any area hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.

Waterfowl hunting after 2 p.m. is prohibited.

Only portable stands and blinds may be used. Deer stands and blinds must be removed from the property at the end of each day.

## **YOUTH AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED HUNTERS**

Youths participating in youth hunts must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of a hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the youth. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt.

Physically challenged hunters must possess a Physically Challenged Program Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The use of ATVs on the trails designated as Physically Challenged is restricted to physically challenged permit holders and persons 60 years or older with proof of age. Those users may utilize Physically Challenged ATV trails or other ATV trails as indicated on the map. Physically Challenged ATV users may not deviate from the designated ATV trails on the area map.

In addition to the special seasons and trails available to our hunters with disabilities, a 350-acre hunting area is reserved exclusively for wheelchair bound deer hunters. For safety reasons, this area is closed for all other activities and access from September 01 through February 28. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register to use a hunting blind, please contact the Project Office.

## **DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

Located in St. Landry and St. Martin parishes, Indian Bayou Area is 40 miles west of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, north of Interstate 10 and just West of the Atchafalaya River.

To access the East side of the Indian Bayou Area from Interstate 10, take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121). From U.S. Hwy. 190, exit at Krotz Springs and take LA Hwy. 105 South. To access the West side of the Indian Bayou Area from Interstate 10, take the Henderson exit (exit 115) and follow the West protection levee north. From U.S. Hwy. 190, exit at the Spillway Road (look for sign), go past the Courtableau Control Structure and follow the West Protection Levee Road south to Indian Bayou.

## **LOUISIANA BLACK BEARS**

The Louisiana Black Bear is a protected species. They are not common on the project, but it is possible to encounter one. Please do not feed or disturb them. Bears will usually notice humans and move out of our path long before they are seen. Persons afield should use caution, not fear, when dealing with bears. Black bears seldom attack people unless provoked. All bear sightings are to be reported to the Project Office immediately.

## **THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED ON INDIAN BAYOU**

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on ATVs and/or possession of firearms.
- Camping/overnight parking
- Overnight mooring of houseboats
- Use of airboats
- Target practice and skeet shooting
- Spot-lighting
- Climbing trees to hunt by driving nails, spikes or other metal objects
- Using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects
- Use of tree climbing spikes
- Use or possession of any type of trail markers (paint, flagging, bright eyes, etc.)
- Moving deer or hogs with organized drivers, standers and/or noise-making devices
- Unattended decoys in the field or on the water
- Construction or hunting from a permanent stand or blind
- Leaving tree stands and/or hunting blinds on the property overnight
- Baiting or the possession of bait, salt or ingestible attractant while on the project at any time.
- Feeding wildlife including alligators
- Hunting/loaded weapons on pipelines during deer gun and primitive weapon hunts

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Office, Port Barre: (337) 585-0853

Indian Bayou Ranger Station: (337) 228-1313

St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office: (337) 948-6516

St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office: (337) 394-3071

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: Operation Game Thief (800) 442-2511

All Other Emergencies: 911

### **2009-2010 Indian Bayou Hunting Permit**

I have read, and understand the regulations governing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indian Bayou Area. I hereby forever release and hold harmless the United States of America from all liability due to death, injury, or damages arising from the exercise of this hunting permit and will indemnify and save harmless the United States of America from any and all costs, damages, settlements, or judgments arising from death, injury or damage to persons or property arising from the exercise of this hunting permit.

Signature (Permits are not transferable) - *Valid only when signed.*

### 2009-2010 Season Dates

<b>Type</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Specific Regulations</b>
Deer-Archery Bucks Only	Oct. 1-15	Bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Deer harvest card required.
Deer-Archery Either-Sex	Oct. 16-Feb. 15	Closed Oct. 31-Nov. 1 and Jan. 17-18. Either-sex, except during bucks only seasons. Bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Deer harvest card required.
Deer-Gun Youth & Physically Challenged, Either-Sex	Oct. 31-Nov. 1	All other seasons closed. Refer to age and certification requirements. No antler restrictions. Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Deer-Gun Either-Sex	Nov. 27-29	All other seasons closed. Either-sex, bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Deer-Gun Either-Sex	Dec. 5-6	All other seasons closed. Either-sex, bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Deer-Primitive Firearm, Either-Sex	Dec. 11-13 Dec. 18-20	Either-sex, bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Deer harvest card required.
Deer-Gun Bucks Only	Jan. 2-13	Bucks must have at least 4 points on one side or have unbranched antlers (commonly called spikes). Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Deer-Gun Youth & Physically Challenged, Either-Sex	Jan. 16-17	All other seasons closed except waterfowl. Refer to age and certification requirements. No antler restrictions. Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Small Game	Same as Area 6	Closed Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 5-6, Jan. 16-17
Migratory Game Birds & Waterfowl	Same as outside (East Zone)	Closed Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 5-6, Jan 16-17 Except waterfowl hunting allowed Jan. 16-17
Squirrel and Rabbit with or without dogs	Jan. 18-Feb. 28	“Hunters Orange” hat required.
Raccoon (Nighttime)	Sept. 12-27 and Jan.18-Feb.28	Special Use Permit required to use trail 2 hours after sunset and later. Contact Project Office.
Hogs		May be taken by properly licensed hunters using legal weapons during any area hunt.
Turkey-Physically Challenged Lottery	March 13 and 14	Mandatory Harvest Check at Ranger Station One gobbler Per Season

Turkey-Public Lottery	March 20-21 March 22-24	Mandatory Harvest Check at Ranger Station One gobbler Per Season
Turkey-Open to Public	March 25-28	Mandatory Harvest Check at Ranger Station One gobbler Per Season
Quail	CLOSED	