



# Amistad National Recreation Area 2025-2026 Hunting Regulations



**WHEN STAMPED AND SIGNED, THIS  
BOOKLET IS YOUR PERMIT.  
KEEP IT WITH YOU WHILE HUNTING.**





# Hunting Permit Application Process

Amistad Annual Hunting Permits may be purchased using one of the following options:

## **Option 1 - Online application/online payment**

Step 1: Download and complete the Special Use Application Form 10-930S from the park webpage at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting> or the QR code on the back of this booklet. Once completed and signed, scan and email the application to [amis\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:amis_interpretation@nps.gov). You will receive a confirmation email along with your permit number.

Step 2: Once you receive your permit number, payment for your hunting permit can be made by credit/debit card or checking account information using the online payment system, <https://pay.gov/public/form/start/99297671> (or use the QR Code on page 3). Once payment has been received your hunting permit and regulations booklet will be mailed to the address on your application within 7 days.

## **Option 2 - In-person application/in-person payment**

Step 1: Download and complete the Special Use Application Form 10-930S from the park webpage at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting> or the QR code on back of this booklet or fill out at the Visitor Center. Priority status will be given to those who arrive with a completed application in hand.

Step 2: Bring the completed and signed form to the Visitor Center with credit/debit card payment for the \$40 hunting permit fee for processing.

While the permit application does require hunters to list their Texas Parks & Wildlife Customer Number, you do not need to present your hunting license to get the permit.

## **Option 3 - Mail in application/online payment**

Step 1: Download and complete the Special Use Application Form 10-930S from the park webpage at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting> or the QR code on the back of this booklet.

Step 2: Mail the completed and signed application to: Amistad National Recreation Area, Attn: Hunting Permits, 10477 Highway 90 West, Del Rio, TX 78840. You will receive a confirmation email with your permit number.

Step 3: Once you receive your permit number, payment for your hunting permit can be made by credit/debit card or checking account information using the online payment system, <https://pay.gov/public/form/start/99297671> (or use the QR code on page 3). **DO NOT MAIL CHECKS.** Upon receipt of payment, your hunting permit and regulations booklet will be mailed to the address on your application within 7 days.

## General Things to Know

The Amistad Visitor Center is located on Highway 90, six miles west of Del Rio. It is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Please verify days of operation on the park website (<https://go.nps.gov/amis/vc>), as these may change. The park address is: Amistad National Recreation Area, 10477 Highway 90 West, Del Rio, TX 78840.

A copy of these hunting regulations may be downloaded at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting> (or at the QR code on the back of this booklet), and printed copies are available at the Visitor Center. Read these hunting regulations carefully, as some National Park Service hunting regulations are more restrictive than the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department hunting regulations.

Hunt Area 2 is subject to periodic closure when the National Park Service gun range is in use for official purposes. When this occurs, hunters will be notified by an alert on the park webpages and by signs posted at the entrance to Hunt Area 2. This gun range is not open to public use.

Be Safe! Use caution and be aware of your surroundings. Consider wearing hunter (or blaze) orange, so you can be seen by other hunters. Steep, uneven terrain, venomous snakes and spiders, spiny plants, and sinkholes are present throughout the park. To report an emergency, call 911. For non-emergencies, call the Val Verde County Sheriff at (830) 774-7513 and request the assistance of a National Park Ranger. It is recommended that you carry and know how to use a compass, flashlight, first aid kit, maps, water, and cell phone, and that you let someone know where you will be hunting and when you plan to return.

If you have questions regarding the hunting program at Amistad National Recreation Area, please call the Amistad Visitor Center at (830) 775-7491, visit our website at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>, or use the QR code on the back of this booklet.

**QR code for Pay.gov:**



# Amistad National Recreation Area Hunting Regulations

**Details on hunting rules, regulations, and bag limits can be found on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) website at the QR code that follows these regulations. State of Texas hunting season dates and regulations apply, except where Amistad National Recreation Area regulations are more restrictive (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations).**

- Hunting is allowed in five specific Hunt Areas; the remainder of Amistad National Recreation Area is closed to hunting.
  - White-tailed deer, javelina, turkey, rabbit, mouflon and aoudad sheep, axis deer, blackbuck, and feral hog can be hunted with compound, recurve, long, and crossbows. Dove, quail, waterfowl (duck), and rabbit can be hunted with shotgun and birdshot. The species listed above are the only species allowed to be hunted in Amistad National Recreation Area.
  - The use of rifles or handguns is prohibited in Amistad National Recreation Area.
  - All hunters must have in their possession a valid Texas hunting license, an Amistad Annual Hunting Permit, a driver license or official photo identification card, and Hunter Safety course certification (if required).
1. The hunting season within Amistad National Recreation Area extends from the first day of Dove Hunting Season to the last day of Quail Hunting Season. Hunting at any other time or in any other manner than prescribed in this set of regulations is prohibited [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)], [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)], [36CFR 7.79(a)(2)].
  2. The following items must be in your possession while hunting at Amistad National Recreation Area: a current Amistad Annual Hunting Permit, a State of Texas hunting license, photo identification, such as a driver license or an official personal identification certificate issued by a State Department of Public Safety or similar state agency authorized to issue a driver license, appropriate State and/or Federal stamps, and a Hunter Safety Course certification (if required) [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)], [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)].
  3. Hunting is authorized in five designated hunting areas as shown on the maps. The remainder of the park is closed to hunting [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)].
  4. The Amistad Annual Hunting Permit entitles you to use compound, recurve, long, and crossbows in accordance with Texas Parks & Wildlife Regulations to take white-tailed deer, turkey, javelina, mouflon and aoudad sheep, blackbuck, axis deer, and feral hog and includes a special,

- park-only, extended season for exotics (see pages 3 and 4 for dates). You may use shotguns with birdshot only to take dove, quail, waterfowl (duck), and rabbit (shotguns may only be used to take rabbit during the dove and quail hunting seasons) [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)], [36CFR 7.79(a)(2)].
5. The use of any firearms within any of Amistad National Recreation Area's designated hunt areas, except as allowed in the Amistad Hunting Regulations, is prohibited [36CFR 2.4(a)(iii)].
  6. Waterfowl (duck) may be hunted by boat within 100 yards of the exterior shoreline boundary of all hunt areas. Shooting must be directed toward the hunt area shoreline when duck hunting by boat. Waterfowl (duck) may also be hunted from the shoreline of the hunt areas and at interior ponds located within the hunt areas [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)].
  7. While waterfowl hunting, only non-toxic shot approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service may be possessed. Possession of lead shot while duck hunting is unlawful [36CFR 1.6(g)(2)], [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)].
  8. The use and/or possession of hunting dogs is allowed for hunting of game birds only. Bird dogs must remain under the owner's control at all times [36CFR 2.2(b)(2)].
  9. Possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage while in an area open to hunting is prohibited [36CFR 2.35(a)(3)(i)].
  10. Feeding or baiting of wildlife is prohibited. The possession of baiting material while inside a hunt area is prohibited [36CFR 2.2(a)(2)]. Bait is defined as something that intentionally or unintentionally lures any wildlife resource. This includes but is not limited to salt, grain, minerals, or other feed directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered.
  11. Portable deer stands or blinds may be used, but they must not be left unattended for longer than 24 hours [36CFR 2.22(a)(2)]. Construction of permanent stands or other structures is prohibited [36CFR 5.7]. Ground blinds are acceptable, but construction is limited to the use of vegetation that is both dead and down. Cutting vegetation is prohibited. Deer stands may not penetrate the bark of the tree [36CFR 2.1(a)(1)(ii)]. Your portable deer stand or blind must be labeled with your permit number. Deer stands that are unmarked or unattended for over 24 hours will be confiscated by Amistad National Recreation Area [36CFR 2.22(b)(1)].

12. Target practice (firearms and archery) is prohibited within Amistad National Recreation Area [36CFR2.4(a)(1)(iii)].  
TPW284.001 (a)(1) or (2); Discharge of Firearm Prohibited; (a) In this section: (1) "Archery equipment" means a longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or crossbow. (2) "Firearm" has the meaning assigned by Section 62.014.
13. Camping within the boundaries of a hunt area is prohibited during the hunting season [36CFR 2.10(a)].
14. The display of harvested game in the Amistad National Recreation Area campgrounds is prohibited. The gutting of deer is prohibited in campgrounds. Skinning and quartering must be out of sight of the public [36CFR 2.10(a)]. The gutting, skinning, and quartering of deer is prohibited in or near the hunt area parking lots. [36CFR 2.2(d)]. Field dressing is permitted within the hunt areas when more than 100 feet from water, roads, and trails.
15. Hunting domestic livestock is prohibited. It is your responsibility to recognize the difference between exotic mouflon or aoudad sheep and domestic goats and sheep. Photos are on pages 23 and 24 to assist you with identification. (Photos also available on the park website, <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.)
16. Hunters using shotguns in the hunt areas are required to carry out their spent shotgun shells [36CFR2.14(a)(1)].
17. Do not park on or cross private property to gain access to a hunt area without the consent of the landowner.
18. All archeological sites, features, and artifacts are protected by Federal law. Do not disturb or remove them.
19. You are hunting on Federally managed land. Violations of State or Federal law and/or recreation area regulations will result in a fine, civil restitution, and/or suspension or permanent loss of your recreational area hunting privileges and/or State hunting license.

**QR code for the  
TPWD Outdoor  
Annual:**



## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk, and other cervids. It is caused by infectious prions, and there is no cure or vaccine. Symptoms include drastic weight loss, stumbling, and listlessness leading to death.

The CDC reports no strong evidence that CWD can infect humans. However, it is important to keep all known prion diseases from entering the human food chain, so hunters are encouraged to take precautions.

Previously, some deer harvested in Val Verde County tested positive for CWD. Several years have passed since then with no positive test results in the county. Hunters who harvest mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, or other CWD-susceptible species may bring their animals to a TPWD check station (when one is available) within 48 hours of harvest for voluntary testing.

Scan the QR codes below to learn more about Chronic Wasting Disease and the availability of a voluntary check station.



**QR code on left for TPWD's information on CWD and recommended precautions.**

**QR code on right for TPWD Val Verde County CWD Check Station information.**



# Amistad Hunting Season Calendar

## May Only Be Harvested with Birdshot

### **Dove**

*Central Zone*

Season: September 1, 2025 - October 26, 2025

December 12, 2025 - January 14, 2026

Migratory Game Bird Stamp and HIP certification required.

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

### **September Teal-only Season (Blue-winged, Green-winged, and Cinnamon)**

*Central Zone*

Season: September 20 - 28, 2025

Migratory Game Bird Stamp (and Federal Duck Stamp if 16 years or older) and HIP certification required.

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

### **Waterfowl (Duck)**

*High Plains Mallard Management Unit*

Season: October 18 - 19, 2025

October 24, 2025 - January 25, 2026

Youth/Veterans Only: October 11 - 12, 2025

Migratory Game Bird Stamp (and Federal Duck Stamp if 16 years or older required.

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

### **Quail**

Season: November 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026

Upland Game Bird Stamp required.

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

### **Rabbit**

Season: September 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

## **May Only Be Harvested with Arrow or Bolt**

### **White-tailed Deer**

#### *North Zone*

Season: November 1, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Special Late Antlerless Season: January 5 - 18, 2026

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

### **Mouflon Sheep, Aoudad Sheep, Blackbuck, Axis Deer, and Feral Hog**

Season: September 1, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Special Park Late "Exotic Game" Season: January 5 - February 28, 2026

Photos to assist with identification are available on pages 22 and 23 and on the park website at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

### **Turkey**

#### *North Zone*

Season: November 1, 2025 - January 4, 2026

No spring turkey season at Amistad

Upland Game Bird Stamp required

Shooting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset

### **Javelina**

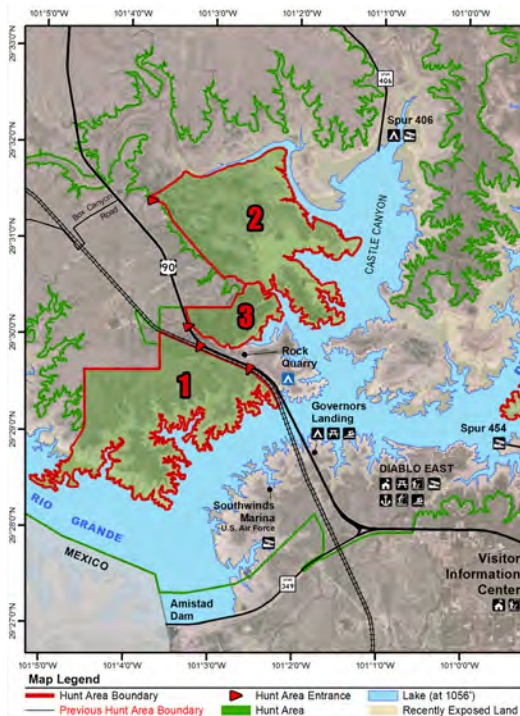
#### *South Zone*

Season: September 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hr before sunrise to 1/2 hr after sunset

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department may have seasons that run longer than those published here. However, all hunting at Amistad National Recreation Area ends February 28.**

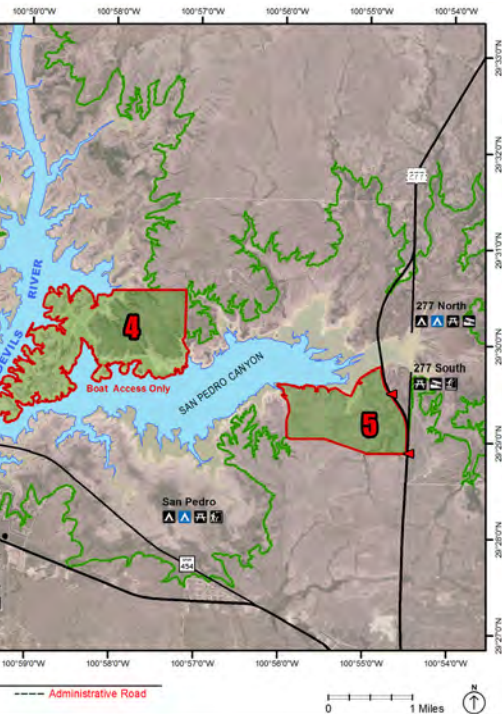
# Hunt Areas



This map is an aerial overview of an 83 square-mile portion of Amistad National Recreation Area showing the location of all five hunt areas.

The map legend includes the hunt area boundaries noted with red lines, the NPS boundary noted with a green line, hunt areas noted with green shading, hunt area entrances noted with red triangles, the lake at elevation 1056 feet noted with blue shading, and recently exposed land noted with light brown shading.

The lake itself has four regions designated on the map, moving from west to



east: Rio Grande, Castle Canyon, Devils River, and San Pedro Canyon. The Rio Grande continues off the map to the west and the Devils River continues off the map to the north, while Castle Canyon and San Pedro Canyon are bounded by land.

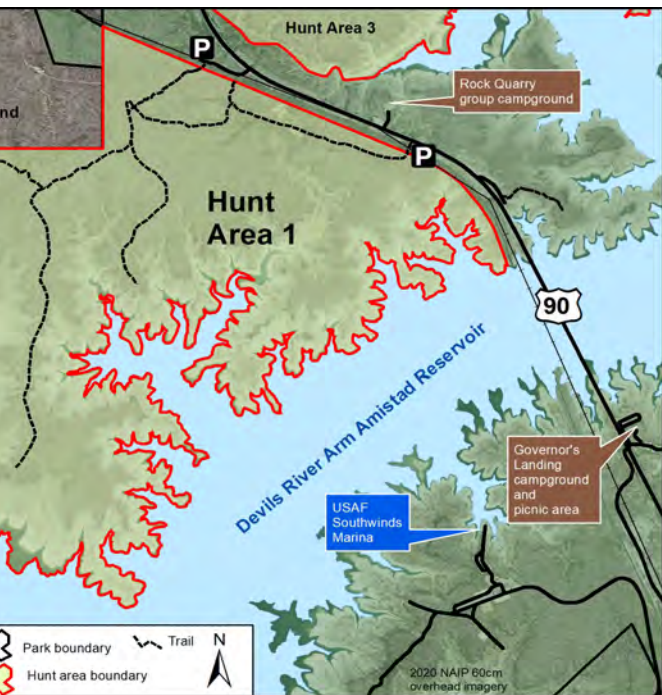
Hunt Areas 1, 2, and 3 are accessed off Highway 90. Hunt Area 4 is on the northwest side of San Pedro Canyon where it joins Devils River. It is only accessible by boat. Hunt Area 5 is accessed from Highway 277, which runs from north to south along the east side of the map. Hunt Area 5 is bound by Highway 277 on the east and the lake along its north and west sides.



## Hunt Area 1

**Information:** Walk-in and boat access available.

Hunt Area 1 has the largest amount of shoreline with trails leading to two main peninsulas. The north and west boundaries are along and in line with a fenceline marked with signs stating "NPS Boundary" or "No Hunting/ Trapping Beyond This Point." The eastern boundary is the shoreline of the Devils River arm of the lake. The southern boundary is the shoreline of the Rio Grande arm of the lake.



**Total Acreage:** 912 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 1375 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 1626 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels and boundaries at the Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** Just after crossing the Highway 90 West main bridge, one parking area is across from the NPS Rock Quarry Group Campsite, and the second is 1/2 mile farther west on Highway 90.



## Hunt Area 2

**Information:** Walk-in and boat access available.

Hunt Area 2 has roads and trails that can be easily navigated. The north, west, and south boundaries of the hunt area are along a fenceline marked with signs labeled "NPS Boundary" or "No Hunting/Trapping Beyond This Point." The remainder of the boundary is the shoreline along Evans Creek, Castle Canyon, and Guajia Bay sections of the lake unless posted otherwise. This hunt area is subject to closure on short notice when the National Park Service gun range is in use by authorized personnel for official purposes. The closure will be posted with a sign at the gate at the entrance to the



hunt area access road and on the park website at: <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Total Acreage:** 505 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 1009 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 1513 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels and boundaries at the Visitor Center or at our website, <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** From Highway 90 West, turn right at flashing yellow light across from Box Canyon Rd and follow gravel access road to the right, which leads to parking area. Do not block the gate on the hunt area access road.



## Hunt Area 3

**Information:** Walk-in and boat access available.

There are no roads in Hunt Area 3 and very few defined trails. The north and west boundaries are along and in line with the fenceline marked with NPS boundary signs, and the remainder of the boundary is the exterior shoreline unless otherwise posted. On the south and southeast boundary, the water has receded due to low lake levels. The hunt area boundary is where the shoreline closest to the hunt area side used to be.



**Total Acreage:** 227 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 267 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 311 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels and boundaries at the Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** Available on the north side of Highway 90, one mile west of the NPS Rock Quarry Group Campsite.



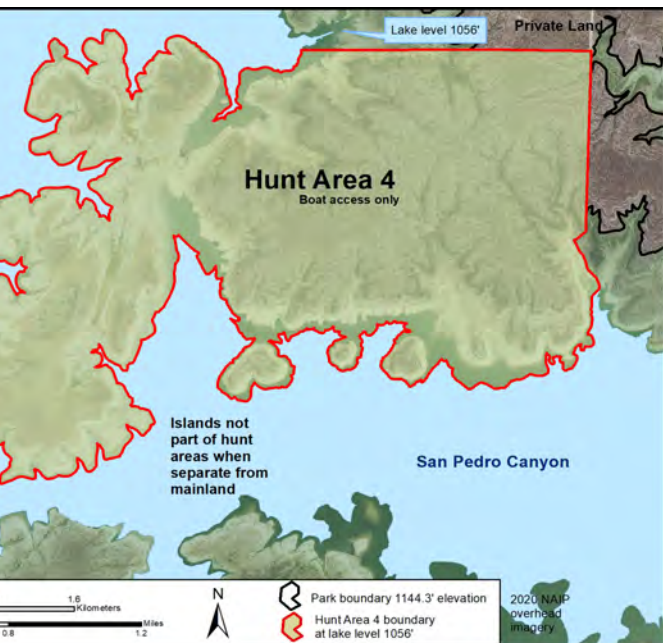
Figure R: Pro-Made Maps/Hunt Areas/Hunt Area 4/Hunt Area 4 1056 2022.mxd

## Hunt Area 4

**Information:** Hunt area only accessible by boat.

Hunt Area 4 is accessible by boat only. Boats must be secured properly to shoreline. Strong, gusty winds are common. Hunt Area 4 is on the end of Long Point, the peninsula between Devils River and San Pedro Arm. The north and east boundaries are marked along and in line with a fence line extending from Devils River to the San Pedro Arm and are marked with signs stating "NPS Boundary" or "No Hunting/Trapping Beyond This Point." The remainder of the boundary is exterior shoreline unless otherwise posted.

**Total Acreage:** 430 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 563 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 1272 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels and



boundaries at the Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** There is no parking. Hunt Area 4 is only accessible by boat or watercraft.

**Total Acreage:** 430 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 563 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 1272 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels at the Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** There is no parking. Hunt Area 4 is only accessible by boat or watercraft.



## Hunt Area 5

**Information:** Walk-in and boat access available.

The south and east boundary is along and in line with a fenceline marked with NPS boundary signs. The west boundary is in line with an old fenceline and is marked with signs labeled "No Hunting/Trapping Beyond This Point." The remaining boundary is the shoreline of the San Pedro Arm extending eastward to the Highway 277 bridge. The hunt area does not extend out onto the exposed dry riverbed of San Pedro Creek.



**Total Acreage:** 592 acres at 1118-foot lake level, 628 acres at 1080-foot lake level, and 640 acres at 1056-foot lake level. Check lake levels and boundaries at the Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/hunting>.

**Parking:** At the southeast corner adjacent to Highway 277N about one mile south of the Highway 277N bridge. A second parking area is farther north on the west side of Highway 90 just before the Highway 277N bridge.

# Exotic Animals–Hunting Allowed

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**Aoudad sheep**

*NPS photo*



**Feral hog**

*Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept / C. Fountain 2010*



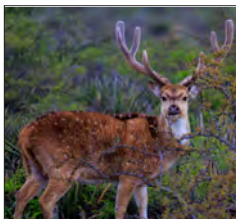
**Mouflon sheep**

*NPS/ JCA*



**Blackbuck**

*Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept / C. Fountain 2010*



**Axis deer**

*Jerod L. Roberts*

# Domestic Animals–**Hunting Not Allowed**

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**Rambouillet rams**

*NPS photo*



**Spanish goats**

*NPS photo*



**Boer goats**

*Harrington Ranch 2010*



**Dorper sheep**

*Devils River Lamb 2010*

## NOTES





Amistad National Recreation Area  
10477 Highway 90 West  
Del Rio, Texas 78840



Scan for the park's  
hunting webpage.

## Helpful Numbers

In case of EMERGENCY, dial 911.

## Non-emergency Law Enforcement

Call Val Verde County Sheriff's Office at (830) 774-7513 and ask for the assistance of a National Park Ranger.

## General Questions

Call the Amistad National Recreation Area Visitor Center at (830) 775-7491 (8:00am-4:30pm).

## TPWD Game Warden

(800) 792-GAME