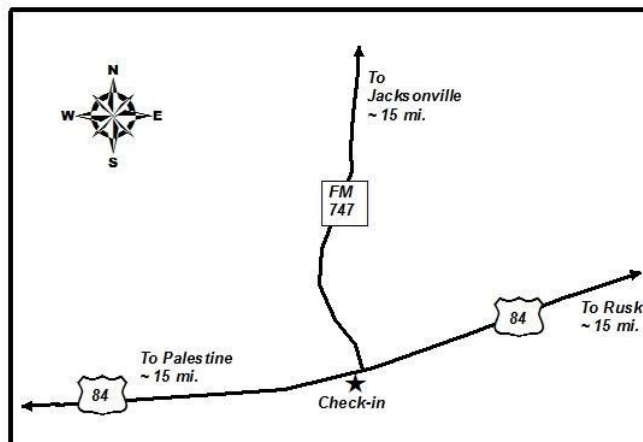




I.D. Fairchild State Forest

Background

The I.D. Fairchild State Forest is located at the intersection of FM 747 and HWY 84 in Cherokee County. The main tract covers approximately 2,082 acres and consists of young to mature pine timber with a variety of hardwood species located along its many creeks and drains. The topography ranges from near flat to excessively steep in some locations. The tract is located approximately 15 miles east of Palestine, 13 miles west of Rusk, and 15 miles south of Jacksonville. The hunter check-in is located at the intersection of HWY 84 and FM 747.



For more information regarding the state forest, call the Jacksonville District Office (903) 586-7545.

Reporting/Orientation

Mandatory orientation and all necessary paperwork can be completed electronically for drawn hunters who wish to hunt Saturday morning. Hunters who do not complete the electronic orientation must attend the in-person orientation which will upon arrival on October 28th, 2023. Hunters must contact the hunt manager **TPWD Biologist Reuben Gay at 409-594-4845 or reuben.gay@tpwd.texas.gov** as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.

Standby hunters should report at 9:00 a.m. on 10/28/23 to complete the application process. Drawing for standby will occur at 9:10 a.m.

Where: Check Station is at the intersection of Hwy 84 and FM 747 on Hwy 84

Preparation: Opens at 6:00 a.m. each morning. Only hunters who have completed their orientation and paperwork electronically will be allowed to hunt the first morning. Closed each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Hunters should bring their valid hunting license, even though it is no longer necessary to use a hunting license tag for a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt. However, a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the area, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the

hunt area and a valid hunting license is required to use such a tag. Antler Restrictions for Cherokee County will apply to this hunt. Firearms should be sighted in prior to arriving on the area. All persons afield in the hunt area must visibly wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material with 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear at all times when hunting with firearms on this State Forest. No non-permitted guests allowed, other than a non-hunting adult directly assisting youth.

Check Station Hours: Opens at 6:00 a.m. on the first day of the hunt and at 6:00 a.m. on the second day of the hunt. Closed each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Facilities: Refrigeration is **not** available; nearest commercial storage/processing is within 5 miles. Portable restrooms and handwash stations will be on site at the check in location.

Check In/Out: All hunters must check in/out with Area Personnel as explained in the orientation.

Latecomers Check In: Hunters unable to report in time for the 6:00 a.m. sign-in on the first day must still report to the check station upon arrival to the Area to receive the orientation information. Those arriving after closing of the check station in the evening must report to the check station the following morning for registration and orientation prior to going to the field.

Hunting Conditions

Stands: Stand locations are predetermined with a pop-up tent style blind. Blinds will be assigned to hunter during orientation. There will be **no** chair provided, as this will be the responsibility of the hunter.

Firearms: Centerfire rifles are the only legal weapons allowed. Rimfire rifles and buckshot are prohibited.

Vehicles: Hunters will be directed to park their vehicles at the entrance of the I.D Fairchild State Forest at the Check-In site location. Transportation to and from the assigned hunting blinds will be provided by Area Personnel. Interior roads are minimal. Be prepared to walk short distances to and from stand if necessary.

Terrain: The area consists of young to mature pine forest with a variety of hardwood species located along its many creeks and drains. The topography ranges from near flat to excessively steep in some locations.

Camping Facilities: Camping is available only with permission from TFS. To obtain permission, contact the TFS Jacksonville District office at (903) 586-7545 at least 1 week before the date of the hunt. There are no restrooms and no potable water at designated camping areas.

Note: During the Special Permit Hunt periods, the Area is closed to general public access.

Youth Hunters: Persons **under 17 years of age** must be accompanied and supervised by a permitted parent or authorized adult.

Hunter Education: Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971. (See Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information.)

Other Information: If you have any further questions, you may call TPWD Wildlife Biologist (409) 594-4845 or the Texas Forest Service, Jacksonville District Office (903) 586-7545.