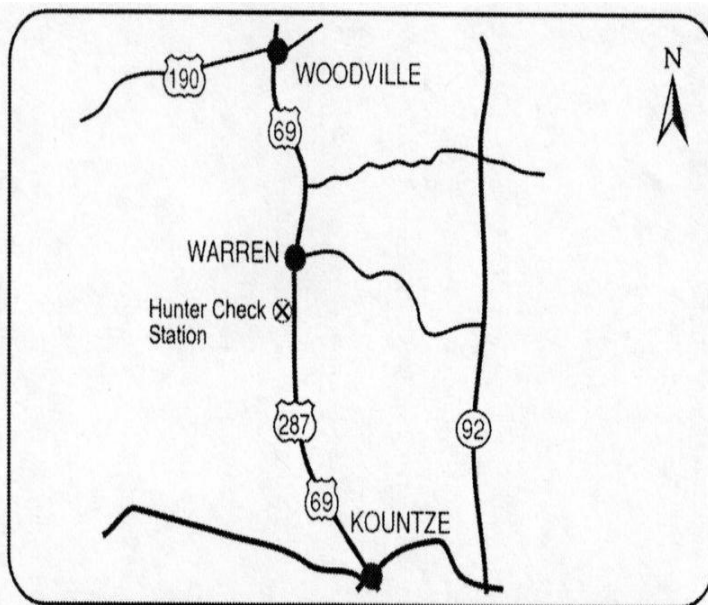




John Henry Kirby State Forest

Background

The Kirby State Forest is located south of Woodville on Hwy 69 between Warren and Kountze. From Warren, it is 2.7 miles to the south. From Kountze, it is 15.2 miles to the north. The forest was acquired in 1929 through donation from John Henry Kirby, a pioneer lumberman. The primary purpose of this forest is resource education for all Texas citizens and visitors. Sound scientific forest management that protects and perpetuates native flora and fauna is practiced. Information and maps can be obtained at the Woodville District Office located on Hwy 69 South or by calling (409) 246-2484 during the office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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 take place at 11:00 a.m. Hunters must contact the area 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 10:00 a.m. to complete the application process. Drawing for standby will occur at 11:00 a.m.

Where: Check Station at the Kirby State Forest located south of Woodville on Hwy 69 between Warren and Kountze, about 2.75 miles south of FM1943 in Warren, on a dirt road turn-off marked by a brown 'John Henry Kirby State Forest' highway road sign. The turn-off is the next road approach south of CR 1550.

Preparation: 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. 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. 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.

Facilities: Refrigeration is **not** available; nearest commercial storage/processing is within 20 miles.

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 10 a.m. sign-in and orientation 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 means allowed. Rimfire rifles and buckshot are prohibited.

Vehicles: 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 gently rolling in some locations.

Camping Facilities: **No camping area is available for this hunt.**

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

Minor or Underage Hunters: **persons under 17 years of age** must be accompanied and supervised by a permitted parent or authorized adult. 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 Courtney McInnerney with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at (409) 789-2053.