

Safety Tips

1. Avoid the following natural hazards known to be present at Hagerman NWR:
 - *Stinging and biting insects such as fire ants and chiggers.*
 - *Venomous snakes, including Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin, Copperhead, Coral or Timber Rattlesnake.*
 - *Irritating plants, such as Poison Ivy.*
2. Remember that the roads through the refuge are public roads and use caution.
3. If you see a baby mammal, look out for a nearby protective parent. Even a large bird such as a heron or egret can be dangerous if you disturb its young.
4. Observe hiking safety measures including:
 - *Carry adequate water with you; carry out the empty containers.*
 - *Bring a cell phone with you and make sure someone knows where you are hiking.*
 - *Carry a compass, map and/or GPS with you. It is easy to get turned around on the refuge's nearly 12,000 acres.*
 - *Prepare yourself and your equipment for the unexpected.*



Western Cottonmouth are among the venomous snakes found on the refuge.

Emergency contacts:

Law Enforcement:
Game Warden:

At Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge,

DO:

- Consider wildlife viewing from your car, which makes an excellent photo blind in most circumstances.
- BE PATIENT! Give the birds a chance to get used to your presence and return to their natural activity.
- Bring your trash home with you. Leave the refuge as you found it.
- Enjoy the refuge from sunrise to sundown.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dangerous situations such as moving water on the low water crossings, hazards such as poison ivy or fire ants, or getting between a baby bird or animal and a protective parent.
- Harvest nuts, berries and mushrooms for personal consumption. Check with the Refuge Office if you are unsure whether harvesting a particular seed, nut or fruit is allowed.



Friends of Hagerman NWR

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Wildlife Code of Ethics



FOH Nature Photo Club



Least Terns nest at Hagerman NWR. They are on the endangered species list.

Promote the welfare of birds and other wildlife, as well as their environments by:

- a. Supporting the protection of bird and wildlife habitat.
- b. Avoiding stress to birds and wildlife or exposing them to danger, by exercising restraint and caution during observation and photography.
- c. Keeping well back from nests and dens, as well as roosts, display areas and feeding sites so as not to disturb or interrupt activities critical for survival of the species.
- d. Not attempting to approach birds by walking on levees or into fields where waterfowl or wintering geese are congregating or feeding.
- e. Respecting signs and barricades and not entering closed areas. If in doubt, check with the Refuge Office.

Respect the law and the rights of others by:

- a. Following all laws, rules and regulations governing use of roads and public areas (including speed limits) and understanding the specific rules and regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Note: Disturbing, destroying or collecting any plant or animal on any national wildlife refuge is prohibited, as is defacement or unauthorized removal of natural objects or objects of antiquity.

- b. Treating others courteously and avoiding interfering with their enjoyment and observation whenever possible.



Wintering Snow Geese are popular subjects for photographers, but must be protected from stress through ethical treatment.

Protect the safety of wildlife and people by:

- a. Not feeding or attempting to lure birds or wildlife to a particular location on the refuge for any purpose, other than the backyard seed, suet and hummingbird feeders at the refuge office.
- b. Not releasing any fish or wildlife on the refuge, whether native to Texas or not.
- c. Allowing birds and wildlife freedom of movement and easy escape. Do not attempt to "herd" a bird or animal to get it to move to another location.
- d. Not attempting to assist an injured or immature bird or animal. If you have a concern, contact the Refuge Office.



Wildflowers and plants are important food sources for resident and migratory birds.

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