

Bogota/Thorny Cypress WMA

Frequently Asked Questions

There are both Quota and NonQuota hunt areas on Bogota/Thorny Cypress WMA. Quota permits are issued by computer drawing. Check TWRA's web site for specific Application Dates for the computer drawing (typically in September); the drawing is held in October. NonQuota or Walk-in hunting areas are outlined below.

Hunting closes at 3:00 pm (local time) each day on both Quota and NonQuota areas (except the last day of each segment of the duck season, when hunting ends at official sunset).

No waterfowl hunters are permitted on the WMA or in access areas from two hours after legal shooting hours have ended until 4:00 a.m. the following day.

Youth Hunt permits will be issued by handheld draw at the TWRA Dyersburg Work Base in late January each year.

Quota pools: Bogota Pools 2, 4, 7, 12, 14, 21 and Thorny Cypress Pools 1 – 9. More information below and at: <http://tn.gov/twra/article/bogota-thorny-cypress-wma-waterfowl-pool-drawings>.

NonQuota pools (Walk-in/ First-Come First-Served): Bogota Pool 1 and Thorny Cypress Pools 10, 11 and 12. More information below and at: <http://tn.gov/twra/article/bogota-thorny-cypress-wma-waterfowl-pool-drawings>

Where can I find directions and information about individual impoundments?

More information, including maps, access information, available cover, and detailed directions can be found at: <http://tn.gov/twra/article/waterfowl-hunting>

I have hunted at Bogota/Thorny Cypress in previous years; will the water level be similar t past years?

No, each hunt pool is unique, in elevation, shape and vegetation. Check the ***What's New*** portion of the TWRA website (<http://tn.gov/twra/article/waterfowl-hunting>) for any unusual conditions.

Why are pools not fully flooded at the start of the season?

None of the pools are level, this allows moist soil plants to be grown at lower elevations and corn to be planted at a slightly higher (and drier) elevation. Subsequently, the moist soil plants will be flooded first and the corn later in the season. This allows the manager to mimic a duck's preferred forage in a natural setting throughout the fall and winter months. Ducks seek seeds from annual grasses in early fall and switch to higher energy food (corn) as temperatures drop in late season.

Why are water levels increased in hunt pools later in the season?

Water levels are raised as the season advances in order to make newly flooded habitat and additional foods available to migrating waterfowl.

What are moist soil plants?

Moist soil plants are naturally occurring wetland plants that grow in areas where soils are saturated (wet) during a portion of the growing season. These include wild millets, sedges, sprangle top, panic grasses and other species. These plants are not planted like an agricultural crop, rather the seeds are in the soil and germination occurs as the wetland dries and the soil is disturbed.

What is the key to having a successful hunt?

The most important factor for a successful hunt is coming prepared to camouflage yourself and your gear from the birds. Hide yourself!!

What are some techniques successful hunters use?

Successful hunters rarely hunt from impoundment levees, instead they will use temporary blinds, layout boats, layout blinds or existing cover (willow/weed patches and standing corn) INSIDE the hunt pool. Ducks become more wary as the season progress and shy away from levees.

What have managers done to improve cover for hunters?

We have constructed mounds in some impoundments (see pool descriptions) so hunters can get out of the water and use layout blinds or other cover to conceal themselves. Some of these mounds have been planted in corn; others have grown up in natural vegetation. We have also planted willow "islands" inside some hunt pools in which hunters can hide.

Quota Permit Areas

What are some differences between the Bogota and Thorny Cypress Quota impoundments?

Bogota was established 5 years prior to Thorny Cypress and hiding cover is better established. Also, Bogota hunt pools are spaced further apart whereas Thorny Cypress pools often share a common levee. Thorny Cypress has two units; the north unit (Pools 1-4) borders White Lake Refuge and the south unit (Pools 5-9) is just north of Ernest Rice WMA.

Persons who draw a quota permit are required to return to TWRA a "Notice of Intent" card indicating they do plan to hunt their assigned pool/blind site. If the "Notice of Intent" card **is not received** by TWRA two weeks or more before their hunt date, that pool/blind site will be considered VACANT and your permit will become invalid.

Any vacant pool/blind sites will be **reallocated by a handheld drawings** each Monday during the duck season at 6 p.m. (local time) at the TWRA Dyersburg Work Base.

No pool may be hunted unless a hunter selected for that pool site and date is present and has on their person a valid Blind Confirmation Number issued by TWRA.

Quota permit holders may bring up to four (4) additional hunting guests. No more than five (5) hunters are allowed per pool/ blind site. All hunters must have a photo ID and all appropriate licenses and permits.

Can ATV's be used to access hunt pools?

Yes, ATVs are allowed to access hunt pools. ATVs may also be used inside pools, HOWEVER planted crops may NOT be disturbed or knocked down, doing so will likely create a Federal baiting issue.

If the WMA or Hwy 104 (Thorny Cypress) or Barbwire Road (Bogota) are flooded due to overbank flooding of the Obion River, can I still participate in my quota hunt?

Yes. It will be your responsibility to gain access to your assigned pool, which may require the use of a boat.

Priority points **will not be reinstated** once a hunt is awarded.

Can decoys be set out prior to my first hunt day (the afternoon or night before)?

No, decoys may not be set out until the first morning of the hunt. However, for multi-day hunts, decoys may be left out until the last day of the hunt. Hunters may not enter the access area or pools before 4 a.m. local time on hunt days.

Is Scouting allowed prior to my hunt day?

NO, quota permit holders and their guests are only allowed on site during the dates listed on their permit.

Can we use motorized decoys (robo-ducks)?

YES

What is the key to having a successful hunt?

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NonQuota (Walk-in) Areas

Bogota Pool 1 and Thorny Cypress Pools 10, 11 and 12 are open **Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday** during the statewide duck season with first-come, first-served access (no quota permit required); **hunting ends at 3 p.m.** (local time) except the last day of each segment of the duck season, when hunting ends at official sunset.

Additional public waterfowl hunting in Dyer County is available at Ernest Rice WMA and Moss Island WMA, both are open with statewide waterfowl seasons, no quota permits are required.

Is there a map of the NonQuota pools?

Yes, maps and directions to these areas can be found at: <http://tn.gov/twra/article/waterfowl-hunting>

Are NonQuota pools planted in crops?

Some portions of these pools are harvested crop fields (no standing crops are left). There are moist soil plants and acorns from flooded oak trees that provide waterfowl food.

Are the NonQuota pools pumped or filled with rainwater?

These pools are NOT pumped, portions of these areas will catch and hold rain water. Backwater flooding will cover large portions of these pools if the river rises due to heavy rains.

Can I scout any pools at Bogota or Thorny Cypress on non-hunt days?

NO, waterfowl hunters may not enter these areas on non-hunt days. No waterfowl hunters are permitted on the WMA or in access areas from two hours after legal shooting hours have ended until 4:00 a.m. the following day.

Can ATV's be used to access NonQuota pools?

ATVs are only allowed to access Thorny Cypress Pool 12 and must remain on the marked trail north of Boothspoint Road. ATVs are NOT allowed to access any other NonQuota pools.

Where can I find out if there are vacant pools for an upcoming hunt?

This information is posted at <http://tn.gov/twra/article/waterfowl-hunting>.

Are the NonQuota (Walk-in) pools open during the youth waterfowl hunt days?

Yes, hunts during youth waterfowl hunt days in the NonQuota Pools on a first come first served basis, similar to hunts during the regular duck season. See Waterfowl Guide for specific rules for youth waterfowl hunts on WMAs.