

Larry Gore's Eagle Lake/Prairie Outfitters is high caliber club

Having a waterfowl hunting operation the caliber of Larry Gore's Eagle Lake/Katy Prairie Outfitters (ELKPO) is an opportunity few can afford to pass up. Not only is the Outfitter known for providing world-class duck and goose hunting, it is all conveniently located in your own backyards... on the Texas rice prairies of Eagle Lake and Katy.

With over 50,000 prime acres available, Larry Gore's ELKPO offers superior goose hunting of

species including Specklebelly, Snow, Blue, Ross' and Lesser Canada geese.

In fact, the area encompassed by ELKPO is recognized as the largest wintering ground of geese found in the United States and Canada and is often referred to as "The Goose Hunting Capital of the World".

In addition to the many geese found in the area, there are also abundant species of duck including, but not limited to, Pintail,

Gadwall, Widgeon and Blue and Green Wing Teal.

Lands managed by ELKPO consist of rice, soybean, milo, corn and many plowed fields.

As a step toward increasing suitable waterfowl habitat, many acres of this property are flooded with pumped or trapped water each year. This practice creates many acres of flooded flats, ponds and reservoirs which await the migrating waterfowl upon their arrival to the area in Oct. and provide prime tracts of enriched waterfowl habitat.

In operation since 1977, ELKPO offers a wide range of hunting opportunities including several different types of memberships on a seasonal basis.

One of the most popular options is the VIP Lease. In either guided or unguided formats, hunters are able to schedule the specific number of hunts preferred (be-

tween 10 and 30 per year) and are offered prime acres on which to hunt. This package is especially attractive to many corporate clients as it provides great customer entertainment.

Furthermore, guided day hunts and three-to-five day packages which include lodging and meals are also available to hunters. These hunts often prove to be the most attractive to the "out-of-town" hunter and provide excellent entertainment, as well as value.

In addition to the excellent waterfowl hunting by ELKPO, pheasant and chukar hunts are offered between Nov. and April.

These guided hunts take place in the afternoons on the ELKPO Upland Game Preserve and provide an exciting option for hunters.

Lodging for ELKPO hunts is available through The Farris 1912 Hotel in Eagle Lake or other area hotels or motels, if you choose.

The staff and guides used by ELKPO stand ready to optimize your hunting experience. With an average of 8.2 years of waterfowl guiding experience, the guides offers a friendly, professional approach to hunting.

Hunts are usually concluded at the conveniently located ELKPO camp, providing all participants an opportunity to share stories of good times and successful hunts on the Texas rice prairies.

By stressing game and habitat management, providing a wide range of waterfowl hunting opportunities and pairing diligent hunters with good guides, ELKPO is able to provide the best duck and goose hunting in the area.

To book your hunts, contact Larry Gore's Eagle Lake/Katy Prairie Outfitters at 281-391-6100, toll free at 1-888-894-6673; or write P.O. Box 129, Katy, Texas 77492.

Only weather stands in way of prime waterfowl hunting

Waterfowl biologists have predicted record breeding populations, record fall flights and ideal habitat conditions. Now, the only prediction standing in the way of what's shaping up to be the best duck and goose hunting season in years is a weather forecast.

Duck hunting begins Oct. 25 across most of the state (reopens Oct. 18 in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit in north and west Texas) and the only question left unanswered is when to expect the cold fronts that will drive birds down from the north and into Texas?

"In recent years, we've been getting a strong front around the end of Oct. or the first of Nov. and if that happens, we'll be in great shape," said Brian Sullivan, waterfowl program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Federal guidelines say we have to close the season the third week in Jan. and, in order to take advantage of a 74-day season this year, we had to open the season in Oct. The timing of the fronts will be the key to early hunter success."

Even if the weather doesn't cooperate, waterfowl hunters will have plenty of opportunity as they welcome the longest Texas Duck season in nearly 40 years and the largest bag limit since the aggregate point system was abandoned in 1984. The 1997-98 duck season will be the longest since 1958 in eastern Texas and 1930 in the HPMMU.

New this duck season are hunting zones which divide eastern Texas into North and South zones along U.S. Hwy. 90 from Del Rio to San Antonio and I-10 from San Antonio to the Louisiana state line. Duck hunting season dates are Oct. 25-Nov. 2 and Nov. 15-Jan. 18 in the North Zone, Oct. 25-Nov. 30 and Dec. 13-Jan. 18 in the South Zone, and Oct. 11-14 and Oct. 18-Jan. 18 in the HPMMU.

Along the coast, biologist David Lobpries anticipates lots of hunting activity, particularly in the bays along the middle coast where waterfowlers can take advantage of an increase in the pintail daily bag to three. "I think we'll see a lot of dusty shotguns come out of the closet this year because of the additional youth hunting opportunity and the numbers of birds expected," said Lobpries.

"Hunters in the bays are excited about the increase in the pintail bag, because now they can shoot three a day, plus two red- (See Weather, Page 19)

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