Texas Lake Wildlife Area is located four miles west and two miles north of Cullison, in northwestern Pratt County. The first plot of land on the area - 320 acres - was purchased in 1976. With additional purchases, the area now encompasses 1200 acres and is managed primarily for hunting. Although Texas Lake is a natural wetland, prior to its purchase by the State of Kansas most of the area was farmed, and some filling of wetlands occurred. Today, intensive management has restored both wetland and upland areas. This combination of native grasslands, shelterbelts, plum thickets, and an extensive wetland complex now create an unusual diversity of habitat for this relatively small area. Depending on yearly rainfall, the area may comprise 186 acres of managed marshlands, 963 acres of grassland, 11 acres of timber, 40 acres of cropland. This marshland has been developed with a system of pipes, pumps, and dikes. Many different pools can be managed with the 345-acre feet of water rights available. The wetlands within this area are managed primarily for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Water conditions may vary greatly depending on weather, season, and management objectives. Most of the purchase and development effort on the area was made possible through Ducks Unlimited’s Matching Aid to Restore States’ Habitats (MARSH) program.

Hunting

Upland game, small game, waterfowl, and big game hunting are all permitted. Because of extensive use of the area by waterfowl, Texas Lake Wildlife Area is a non-toxic shot only area. Lead shot may not be possessed while on the area. Depending on fall migrations from the north, waterfowl hunting can be excellent although the area is small and sometimes overcrowded. Upland game species include quail and pheasant, and good populations of both species inhabit the area. Good habitat provides a stable deer population, especially during archery season before waterfowl and upland game hunting begins. Rabbits and squirrels may also be found in small numbers. Turkeys are present in the general area and may be found on the wildlife area at times.

Things to Remember

This is a “non-toxic shot only” area. Possession of lead shot is not permitted.

Vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas.

No toilets, water, or electrical hookups are available. In order to improve habitat or hunting conditions, special regulations may be implemented. Be sure to check regulations and information signs in the parking areas for special regulations. All hunters of Texas Lake WA, including those hunting upland game, deer, small game, and waterfowl, are required to obtain and complete a free day-use permit. These permits can be found in iron dispensers located in each parking lot near the information board. Each permit is a two piece card. Before hunting on the area, complete the top portion of the card and separate it from the lower portion. Place top portion in the permit box. Carry the lower portion with you while you are on the area. Upon completion of your visit, fill out the lower portion and place it in a permit box. Each hunter must complete one permit for each day of hunting on Texas Lake. Information obtained from hunters will be used to evaluate management practices.

Fishing

Due to the seasonal nature of the wetlands on Texas Lake Wildlife Area, no fish are present. However, depending on wetland conditions in a given year, bullfrog hunting opportunities may exist. A valid fishing license is required to hunt bullfrogs in season, which normally runs July 1 through October 31.
Texas Lake Wildlife Area

1.5 miles to U.S. Hwy 54

11.5 miles to Pratt

Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area 4 miles

Pools 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 3D, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 can be pumped
Pools 3C, 3E, 3F cannot be pumped
(Conditions of the wetland pools fluctuate with weather conditions and seasons of the year.)