The South Fork Wildlife Area is 1,100 acres of public land located 14 miles Northeast of St. Francis. The St. Francis Wildlife Area is 480 acres of public land located 4 miles Southwest of St. Francis. The Republican River flows through both properties and provides some excellent habitat and a diverse population of wildlife. These areas are mainly upland areas with riparian timber along the river and food plots strategically placed throughout. Both are managed for wildlife and offer great outdoor recreational opportunities.

HUNTING

Both areas offer a wide range of game and non-game species. Whitetail, mule deer, and Rio Grande turkeys are transient visitors moving on and off the area throughout the year and can provide some exciting hunting. Pheasants, quail, and prairie chickens can be found on the areas and may provide some good upland hunting for the dedicated hunter. Waterfowl numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year, depending on the availability of water. The Saint Francis Wildlife Area can produce a good duck hunt on the sandpits while the South Fork Wildlife Area has been known to hold several mallards in the fall when water is present in the river bottom. However, during the busier times of the year wildlife may be driven off the area from pressure.

FISHING

Two sandpits are located on the St. Francis Wildlife Area. One on each side of the river. These pits are periodically stocked with channel catfish, largemouth bass, and bluegill. The South pit has vehicular access but the North pit is walk-in only.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Both areas are open to trapping—persons hunting with dogs should be familiar with the signs of trapping as well as be able to operate commonly used traps. Vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas. People using the areas must take their own trash out. Restrooms are not available on the area. No drinking water is available on the area.

Consult the informational kiosks on the areas for more complete information on the rules and regulations that apply to these areas.