LBJ Grasslands 2021

**COVID Notes**

Due to COVID Pandemic concerns, this event will be run as a DIY event. Each participant will use the NTOA website to sign an electronic waiver, which will then link them to a page with the maps and clues on it. There will be a Yellow, Brown, and Red course, plus an All-Controls Map. The participant downloads and prints the maps and clues which interest them. The controls for this event will be 36 inch wooden stakes placed in the ground. The flagged top of the stakes will be approximately 30 inches high. They will have different color plastic streamers on them with notes about NTOA and the control number. **Dates are contingent on the Forest Service doing a controlled burn in the area! Dates subject to change.** The event will be in the field starting Thursday March 11th and run thru Sunday March 21th. Participants may go out to LBJ at any time during that period and do the courses. Please let a friend or family member know you are going out and when you expect to finish. NTOA will have no one onsite to assist. LBJ is very remote and much of it is unfenced so orienteers need to be extra vigilant to not go “off the map”. There are no catching features. It is also not recommended to be attempting any course at night or be finishing a course as dark is approaching.

LBJ Grasslands is much more primitive than our normal North Texas Orienteering locations. There are deep canyons. The soil is mostly sand which makes for slow travel but also causes erosion. There are places where the map will show one trail and yet there will appear to be several due to game in the area and erosion. The area is used by equestrians and we must respect their use of the area. They have the right-of-way. If you come upon a horse and rider, stop. Make voice contact and allow them to proceed. LBJ has **no fences to contain orienteers** on the mapped area. The road along the northern part of the map is closed for all traffic. This same road also intersects our mapped area in the far south western corner, which is also closed. For these reasons, only advanced orienteers should be using the area.

Campers are often camped in the areas near the roads. Please respect their camps and do not go through the camps. Courses are designed to avoid the camping areas near the forest service roads.

The Forest Service has closed many areas to off-road parking. The only notice are often small markers placed in the middle of the old drive areas. Please respect these! The fines for going off the roads are expensive.

Note from the U.S. Forest Service: "You will be responsible for adhering to the LBJ Motor Vehicle Use requirements, which identifies roads, trails and areas designated for motor vehicle use.  You will also strictly adhere to any federal, state or local restrictions in effect at the time of the activity due to COVID-19 response.  Including but not limited to: social distancing, size limits of participants, closure areas."

And "As a reminder, your use must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies.  As a courtesy to others, I ask you practice “Leave No Trace” ethics while on the NFS lands.

**Update: There is now a schedule control burn in the Forest Service Section where our event takes place. Our event will be delayed due to the burn. We will check the area and update these notes once we know how the burn affects our event.** There are no new areas where the forest service is removing the cedar trees.

For the 2021 event, the start and finish is in the North East corner of our map, near the Tadra point area. The web site has directions. Some navigation tools can also direct you to Tadra Point. You will start and finish just to the south west of Tadra point, parking along the closed Forest Service road. As you approach Tadra Point, look to your west to see the meet area. There is a closed and locked Forest Service fence a short distance down the road*.* **You may park along the road leading to the closed fence.** **You may also choose to park within Tadra Point day use area, but please pay the fee at the kiosk to avoid fines. There is a Pit Toilet located in the Tadra Point area.**

**The Start and Finish is the closed and locked Forest Service Gate at the parking area.**

The Forest Service has advised us that there COULD be cattle in the area during our event. In 2020, the cattle were moved onto the area after our event. But we have heard the cattle could be moved in Mid-March, just before our event.

Be aware that the stream that runs from the pond near the north west part of the map, running south to north, has a lot of debris in it. This has caused the water level to back up and become deep in the stream. In past years, the stream was quite cross-able near the pond, this year it is uncrossable for a long distance to the south. Courses have been adjusted to avoid the stream.

Due to the difficulty of the terrain, the courses are on the long side.

Yellow is 9 controls and 2.08 K.

Brown is 9 controls and 5.03 K.

Red is 16 controls and 6.89 K.