

LBJ Grasslands 2024

Jan. 20, 2024

Meet Director & Course Setter Notes

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 and 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 heavily 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 southwestern 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.

There are no new areas where the forest service is removing the cedar trees.

For the 2024 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 southwest 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. We still do not recommend parking within Tadra due to its high use as a horse trailer parking area.**

There are two Pit Toilets located in the Tadra Point area. The first is up the main road into the area and the second is North North West and downhill of the first one.

The Start for Yellow, Brown and Red is the closed and locked Forest Service Gate at the parking area. We will first Mass Start Brown and Red. Once they are all away, we will then Mass Start Yellow. The Finish will be at the registration area.

Be aware that the stream that runs from the pond near the northwest part of the map, running south to north, has a lot of debris in it and beavers have been building dams on the creek. 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 and that one control may be skipped, the courses are on the long side.

- Yellow is 9 controls and 2.5 K.
- Brown is 12 controls and 5.46 K.
- Red is 15 controls and 7.11 K.

Ray Janes & Gene Wernette