



Upland Game Bird Account Project Proposal

1. **Project Title:** CWA Badger Almond Public Hunt Program
2. **Amount Requesting:** \$12,000
3. **Organization:** California Waterfowl Association, Tax ID 94-1149574
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4. **Introduction: Hunter Opportunity**

California hunting license sales have dropped steadily from 767,149 in 1970 to 268,254 in 2014. A leading cause of this drop is the loss of hunting opportunities and access. To help reverse this trend and to recruit, retain, and reintroduce hunters to the field California Waterfowl Association (CWA) developed a program based upon the Department of Fish and Wildlife's lottery system for hunting on public lands. Through CWA's relationship with private landowners, the program has created access to private lands and has been identified as the California Waterfowl Hunt Program. The program has grown steadily over the past six years and now includes almost 40 individual properties encompassing over 40,000 acres. Since the inception, over 3,500 hunters have participated in the program with hundreds of landowners and volunteers providing in-kind services (hosting, guiding hunts, etc.) and access to high quality hunting opportunities to the general public. The program currently hosts waterfowl, pheasant, dove, turkey, and pig hunts. In addition to providing opportunities to the general public, specialty hunts cater to families, youth (apprentice), women, mobility impaired hunters and veterans. Applicants have an extensive variety of hunts to choose from which include access to some of the most prestigious and exclusive hunting properties in the country. Hunt locations range from the Klamath Basin in northern California to San Jacinto Valley in southern California.

In the spring of 2014, through a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Grant, CWA acquired 2,200+ acres in Kern County. The acreage is made up of two separate properties known as the Houchin and the Badger Almond parcels and is collectively referred to as Goose Lake. The Badger Almond property is in need of habitat restoration and development of infrastructure before it can be fully utilized for hunting. However, the Houchin property had habitat restoration completed and CWA was able to establish some opportunity for the public only a couple months after owning the site. Starting in September, 20 public hunters partook in the first dove hunting opportunity on the upland portion of the Houchin property which resulted in a 5 bird average. Then following completion of wetland enhancement activities on the Houchin property, 305 hunters took advantage of the waterfowl hunting season. This proposal requests funding to help offset the substantial operating costs of running a public hunt program on Badger Almond. We anticipate more than 140 people will enjoy time upland game hunting as part of the Badger Almond Hunt Program.

5. Project Description:

Goose Lake is one of three Regional Conservation and Education Centers CWA owns throughout the state. The priority use of Goose Lake is to host a wide variety of Hunting Heritage Program events including environmental education, youth, family, veteran, and general hunts through controlled and managed public access.

The proposed project will fund the installation of three wildlife guzzlers on Badger Almond. The installation of the three guzzlers will provide vital aid to upland bird survival, and share costs of our staffing expenses to coordinate the public upland game hunting opportunities. We propose a stocking program of 300 pheasants throughout the regular pheasant hunting season. We will host 14 hunt days in the fall reaching 10-15 hunters per date. Hunters will be provided with hunt map on specific hunt zones and past hunter success. During shoot days, hunters will be allowed to harvest dove in addition to pheasants. The hunt will be advertised as a combo pheasant and dove hunt with the main focus on the pheasant hunt.

CWA will handle reservations and liability waivers through the well-established CWA Hunting Heritage program. Hunters are chosen through a random lottery process administered by a third party. CWA provides professional staff, including a Hunt Program Coordinator and the necessary supervisory and support staff to administer all aspects of the hunt program, including but not limited to general correspondence, advertising, habitat management, hunting preparation, hosting hunts, accounting, invoicing, reporting, etc. CWA has a well-established track record, fiscal policies and procedures to effectively administer and manage this very successful hunt program.

The hunt program, which was first administered at Goose Lake during the 2014/15 hunt season, will expand and consist of fourteen hunt periods (Wednesday and Saturday) from November 8 - December 21. Each hunt period will include five hunting parties of two (may consist of three hunters if one or more hunters are juniors). These hunt periods will accommodate more than 140 hunters.

How the Application Process Works:

- All applicants apply via a secured application webpage on calwaterfowl.org.
- Each hunt application has a small processing fee. There is only one application per hunt, per person rule to allow a variety of applicants an unforgettable hunting experience.
- After the hunt winner and guest(s), pay the \$25 hunter access fee and completes the liability forms, CWA then sends the hunt details to the hunting party.
- Hunter access fees are waived for all junior hunters.
- Each hunter fills out liability forms via online and the day of the hunt.
- Applicants are not required to be CWA members.
- CWA supplies liability insurance up to \$1,000,000 Common Cause and \$3,000,000 Aggregate.

CWA will advertise and promote the 1,531 acres as public hunting opportunities through direct mailers to California hunters, CWA magazine (18,000+ members), outdoor magazines including Western Outdoor News, and submitting local press releases to local news outlets. These outreach efforts will educate hunters about the new public hunting opportunities at CWA's Goose Lake properties.

6. Expected Benefits:

This project will provide 14 hunt days reaching 140+ hunters directly and several thousand hunters indirectly through advertisement and educational routes, all to help recruit, retain, and reintroduce hunters to the field and reverse the downward trend in hunting license sales. The leading cause in the drop of hunting license sales is the loss of hunting opportunities. This pheasant release proposal will help to continue providing additional high quality upland game hunting opportunities to the general public. The wildlife guzzlers will improve the quality of the upland birds and benefit wildlife.

7. Itemized Budget:

Upland Game Bird Stamp Proposal 2015						
Project Title:	CWA Badger Almond Public Hunt Program	Location				
		Goose Lake, Kern County CA				
Budget Line Item #	Work/Item Description	Count	Units		Cost/Unit	
MATERIALS:						
1	Materials and Supplies (Mailers, Advertisements, News Letters, etc.)	1	Lump Sum	@	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2	Online Application Software License	1	License	@	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
3	Pheasants	300	Per	@	\$18.00	\$5,400.00
4	Wildlife Guzzlers	3	Per	@	\$950.00	\$2,850.00
	Materials Subtotal					\$16,250.00
CONSTRUCTION						
5	Guzzler Installation	3	Per	@	\$200.00	\$600.00
	Construction Subtotal					\$600.00
PERSONNEL SERVICES:						
6	Associate Biologist	40	hours	@	\$25.00	\$1,000.00
7	Hunt Program Coordinator	100	hours	@	\$25.00	\$2,500.00
8	Benefits Salaried Staff			@	33%	\$1,155.00
9	Technician	200	hours	@	\$17.00	\$3,400.00
10	Benefits Temporary Staff			@	16%	\$544.00
	Personnel Subtotal					\$8,599.00
OPERATING EXPENSES:						
11	Mileage	2000	miles	@	\$0.575	\$1,150.00
12	Meals & Lodging	3	Trips	@	\$150.000	\$450.00
	Operating Subtotal					\$1,600.00
OVERHEAD:						
13	Overhead 14%					\$3,786.86
	Overhead Subtotal					\$3,786.86
PROJECT COST:						\$30,835.86
PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS:						
14	Income Application and Daily Access Fee					\$8,000.00
15	CWA Contribution					\$10,835.86
	TOTAL UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP GRANT REQUEST					\$12,000.00

