The department shall annually provide an opportunity for licensed hunters to comment and make recommendations on the public hunting programs, including anticipated habitat conditions in the hunting areas on Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas, as defined under the commission's regulations, through public meetings or other public outreach. In complying with this section, the department may hold regional meetings on its hunting programs for several different wildlife areas.

(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 387, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2014.)
GENERAL COMMENTS

• Water supply is 100% Level 2 for State wildlife areas in the San Joaquin Valley. The Level 4 supply is also nearly 90% as well.

• The Nutria Eradication Program has now captured nearly 700 individuals on most of the public and private wetlands in the area. Funding has been put in place to hire staff (15 field positions and 8 administrative and clerical) to continue to find and dispose of this dangerous pest.

• The very wet winter and spring has helped with moist soil production, resulted in an extended nesting season, and been generally positive. However, it also delayed entry to fields for rehabs and we have mowed roads and fields two times more than a normally wet year.

• Our purchasing procedure continues to be a time bandit taking staff out of the field. The closing of the fiscal year at the end of June requires us to stop purchasing in mid May and we rarely have spending authority until mid August. Translation is if something breaks or we run out of something during our field season it may have to sit idle until now.

• We continue to explore incorporating the ALDS system into the check stations to help with license verification, data collection, and lottery administration. This year we will begin to use scan guns for the lottery using data from your license (DOC# bar code) and use that to compile the lottery. We are also trying to set up a secure site that we can post lottery results online after the draw with draw order for the next day in addition to posting it on the window. Standby.

• Waterfowl seasonal will go until Friday January 31st this year. All Type A hunt programs will be open on Wednesday January 29. Goose season will have closed the previous Sunday, but all waterfowl regs will remain in force. Junior weekend will be February 8-9 and will coincide with Late Goose season. State and Federal areas will not be open for late goose hunting at that time even though we will be open for Junior hunters.
LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA COMPLEX

Sean Allen
Manager, LBWAC

Los Banos Wildlife Area
Mud Slough Unit
Volta Wildlife Area
Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area
Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area
San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area
O’Neil Forebay Wildlife Area
LOS BANOS WA HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES 2019/2020

• Three Repogle Flumes were installed on large water distribution canals to allow us to accurately and simply measure water delivered to the wildlife area. Staff gauges are also being installed at each wetland drain to help ensure water levels are consistent year to year and water levels are at optimal level throughout the annual cycle. Our thanks to CWA managing those projects.

• Since the last forum there have been several retirements and personnel changes. Los Banos WA was without a Manager for a full year. The office manager position was vacant from July 1 through April 1. The position in charge of O’Neill Forebay, and the foothill properties was vacant from January 1 through April 1st and our Fish and Wildlife Technician has been vacant since June. The Assistant Manager position has also been vacant since May 15. Our Environmental Scientist has been reassigned to Nutria eradication efforts for almost half the year as well. A side note is that the new positions available with the Nutria Program may further impact our personnel issues in that we have several qualified seasonal people whom may take advantage of these permanent full time/full benefits positions right before waterfowl season.

• 95 acres of safflower was planted and mowing has begun for dove season.

• 1600 acres of seasonal wetlands were irrigated of which approx. 200 acres of watergrass was reseeded.

• We will be planting another 200 pheasants for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27th and for Saturday, November 30th (100 for each day)

• We are also exploring regulation changes allowing Jr deer hunting and a very limited 2-3 day quail hunting season on the area around Thanksgiving.

• Expanding trailer drawing to 28 spaces on LBWA on the northwest corner of the parking lot.
Los Banos Wildlife Area 2019 Flood-up Schedule

Flood Dates:
- Semi-Permanent: August 15 - 30
- Permanent: September 1 - 15
- September 15 - 30
- November 15 - December 1
- October 1 - 15
- December 1 - 2

Legend:
- Red: July 15 - 30
- Green: August 1 - 15
- Purple: September 15 - 30
- Orange: October 1 - 15
- Pink: December 1 - 15
- Brown: Not Flooded
LBWA REPOGLE FLUME BEHIND REGISTRATION BOOTH
LBWA REPOGLE FLUME
F71A/45C
LBWA 9B WOODUCKS
LBWA 19A (BIG 19)
LBWA 21A (SOUTH)
LBWA 21B (NORTH)
LBWA 64 (NORTH)
FIELD 68
## LOS BANOS WA HUNTER QUOTAS 2019/2020

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres Flooded</th>
<th>2019-20 Hunter Quota</th>
<th>2018-19 Hunter Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Day</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>2156</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>2415</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOLTA WA HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES 2019/2020

- Wetland Acreage should be 100% of a normal year and flooded similar to the previous year.

- Most of the thirties and teens were spot disced and mowed. Most of the other ponds on the eastside were spot disced and mowed as needed.

- This summer we were able to keep Field 10 dry with the help of our partners at the San Luis Water Authority and the Grasslands Water District. Both agencies did great jobs managing their irrigations and maintained Field 10 at an elevation of 2.5 throughout the summer. In July we were able to take two large discs into Field 10 east of the wasteway and make 4 passes turning nearly 100 acres of rank tules/cattails into the soil. We plan to flood field 10 quickly and hold it deep this fall and winter. Next spring we hope to draw it down once again and do additional discing and to promote moist soil growth. Needless to say wading that part of field 10 will be difficult.

- The radial gates at were refurbished this summer with funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Ducks Unlimited was the project manager and worked with Agri Valley Construction. The contractor removed the old galvanized sheeting, replaced corroded supports, stripped rust and old paint and then primed, painted and reskinned the entire structure. It should be 20 plus years before we need to work on them again.

- We will expand the trailer drawing to 18 adding 3 additional spots.
Volta Wildlife Area 2019 Flood-up Schedule

Flood Date

- August 1 - 15
- September 1 - 15
- October 1 - 15
- November 1 - 15
- December 1 - 15
- August 15 - 30
- September 15 - October 1
- November 1
- Permanent

Not Flooded

Penna nent

0.5

TG 07/18
VOLTA F10
VOLTA RADIAL GATES
## VOLTA WA HUNTER QUOTAS 2019/2020

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres Flooded</th>
<th>2019-20 Hunter Quota</th>
<th>2018-19 Hunter Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Day</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>2125</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>2385</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>2687</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MUD SLOUGH UNIT
LOS BANOS WA HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES 2019/2020

• All units received spring irrigations.
• Some spot discing and mowing occurred in all fields except 5A and 5B.
• Fields 5A and 5B were completely rehabbed to set back a terrible joint grass problem. Both fields were reseeded with watergrass and sprayed with Milestone to kill cockle bur growth. Fields will be irrigated throughout the next two months and will be flooded in late November.
• Area will not be available on opening day. Scheduled to open Saturday, November 23.
• The area should be completely flooded by early December and all blinds should be available.
Mud Slough Unit 2019 Flood-up Schedule
Los Banos Wildlife Area

Flood Date
- September 15 - 30
- November 1 - 15
- December 1 - 15
- October 1 - 15
- November 20 - December 10
- Not Flooded

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

LAS 08/16
### 2018-19 season, including youth hunts. (2017-18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>Ducks</th>
<th>Geese</th>
<th>Waterfowl</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOS BANOS</strong></td>
<td>4534 (4055)</td>
<td>6621 (7587)</td>
<td>78 (244)</td>
<td>6808 (7914)</td>
<td>1.50 (1.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOLTA</strong></td>
<td>2618 (2767)</td>
<td>5576 (6317)</td>
<td>7 (16)</td>
<td>5692 (6394)</td>
<td>2.17 (2.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SALT SLOUGH</strong></td>
<td>1364 (1441)</td>
<td>2399 (2533)</td>
<td>17 (54)</td>
<td>2437 (2648)</td>
<td>1.79 (1.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GADWALL</strong></td>
<td>1068 (1162)</td>
<td>2865 (3321)</td>
<td>16 (19)</td>
<td>2897 (3377)</td>
<td>2.71 (2.91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA ISLAND</strong></td>
<td>736 (621)</td>
<td>846 (992)</td>
<td>11 (55)</td>
<td>870 (1057)</td>
<td>1.18 (1.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAN LUIS</strong></td>
<td>3118 (2867)</td>
<td>5960 (4624)</td>
<td>72 (76)</td>
<td>6062 (4862)</td>
<td>1.94 (1.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEAR CREEK</strong></td>
<td>776 (545)</td>
<td>1372 (1320)</td>
<td>73 (79)</td>
<td>1445 (1401)</td>
<td>1.86 (2.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FREITAS SOUTH</strong></td>
<td>382 (419)</td>
<td>577 (762)</td>
<td>42 (69)</td>
<td>622 (841)</td>
<td>1.63 (2.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FREITAS NORTH</strong></td>
<td>649 (727)</td>
<td>1480 (1825)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>1481 (1845)</td>
<td>2.28 (2.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KESTERSON</strong></td>
<td>2267 (2211)</td>
<td>3153 (3395)</td>
<td>49 (164)</td>
<td>3232 (3597)</td>
<td>1.43 (1.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MERCED</strong></td>
<td>908 (934)</td>
<td>2095 (2448)</td>
<td>71 (314)</td>
<td>2166 (2766)</td>
<td>2.39 (2.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>18,420 (17,749)</td>
<td>32,944 (34,929)</td>
<td>437 (1101)</td>
<td>33,712 (36,703)</td>
<td>1.83 (2.07)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MUD SLOUGH 5B (SOUTH)
NORTH GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA COMPLEX

Steven Miyamoto
Manager, NGWAC
Salt Slough Unit
Gadwall Unit
China Island Unit
SALT SLOUGH UNIT
NORTH GRASSLANDS WA
HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES
2019/2020

• Staff irrigated 648 acres of watergrass and 320 acres of swamp timothy.

• Waterfowl hunter quota for opening weekend is expected to be 40 hunters.

• The safety/ security lights by the overnight parking were finally completed….after waterfowl season. The street lighting will make it safer for hunters crossing the road to the check station in the dark.

• Zone 13 - Blinds will be open for hunting the 2nd Saturday in December. Blinds 13-1 and 13-2 are still closed.

• Staff re-seeded water grass in ponds 33, 41 and 46. These ponds may be difficult to wade in due to the heavy discing.

• Ponds 44, 46,47 and 48 will still be assigned ponds.
# SALT SLOUGH UNIT
**NORTH GRASSLANDS WA**

**HUNTER QUOTAS 2019-20**

*Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres Flooded</th>
<th>2019-20 Hunter Quota</th>
<th>2018-19 Hunter Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Day</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>37 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>37 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>52 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>52 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Two hundred and seventy-two acres of watergrass were irrigated this year. Two hundred and twenty-four acres of swamp timothy was irrigated.

• Fifteen acres safflower was planted in Field 14. Additionally, 37 acres of volunteer wheat was irrigated to maturity resulting in good seed production.

• Pond 8 may not get flooded this year in order to control non-desirable vegetation.

• There continues to be issues with rank aquatic vegetation growing in the cement delivery canal. Rank vegetation allows for sediment build-up and reduces capacity of the canal.

• Nutria were discovered on the area early summer of 2018. The area continues to be a nutria hotbed.
# CHINA ISLAND UNIT
## NORTH GRASSLANDS WA
### HUNTER QUOTAS 2019/2020

*Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres Flooded</th>
<th>2019-20 Hunter Quota</th>
<th>2018-19 Hunter Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Day</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
China Island Unit 2019 Flood-up Schedule
North Grasslands Wildlife Area

Flood Date
- Green: October 1
- Light Blue: December 1
- Blue: Permanent
- Orange: November 1
- Brown: Not Flooded

Legend:
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Scale:
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile

Map by: TG 09/18
GADWALL UNIT
NORTH GRASSLANDS WA
HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES
2019/2020

• Four hundred and twenty-four acres of swamp timothy was irrigated this year.
• The area will receive water early this year.
• Full hunter quota is expected for the free roam area.
• Gadwall Zone F will not open until the 3rd Saturday in November.
# GADWALL UNIT
**NORTH GRASSLANDS WA**

**HUNTER QUOTAS 2019/2020**

*Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres Flooded In Hunt Area</th>
<th>2019-20 Hunter Quota</th>
<th>2018-19 Hunter Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Day</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>24 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>24 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>33 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>33 + ADA Blind</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2019 Youth Hunt (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>Ducks</th>
<th>Geese</th>
<th>Waterfowl</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salt Slough</strong></td>
<td>14 (16)</td>
<td>44 (35)</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>45 (37)</td>
<td>3.21 (2.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gadwall</strong></td>
<td>15 (14)</td>
<td>11 (49)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>12 (49)</td>
<td>0.80 (3.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>China Island</strong></td>
<td>3 (9)</td>
<td>5 (20)</td>
<td>0 (1)</td>
<td>5 (21)</td>
<td>1.67 (2.33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BE OUR EYES
WHILE YOU ARE IN THE FIELD

- Report any dead or sick waterfowl in a group of 5 or more. Call our office LBWA (209) 826-0463; Mendota (559) 655-4645 or report your observations to check station staff as soon as possible.

- If you believe you have encountered a Nutria, please call the Nutria Hotline (866) 440-9530 or email: invasives@wildlife.ca.gov
THANKS

• To the Agencies and organizations for participating

• Special thanks to Grasslands Water District for their tireless efforts in securing water supplies for and advocating for the wetlands of the Central Valley and specifically the Grasslands Ecological Area.

• To Ducks Unlimited Los Banos Committee for providing the refreshments for this event.

• To you, our Public for participating in this information exchange
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE 8/17/19 MEETING

- Blind refilling at Salt slough procedures need to make it clear that parties must declare together
- How will the dove lottery work and how does the ALDS draw work
- How can we get involved in learning more and participating in the HSR impacts to the Los Banos WA
- Can the State change the rule for refills from no one after 3pm to 2pm.
- How can we prevent people from leaving early and walking through the area at the end of shoot time.
- Can we change the rule regarding the 25 shell limit as it pertains to upland game specifically late season dove hunting.
- Have we ever had and could we have a legislative day that brings local, state, and national leaders out to the wetlands to better educate them on what these areas are all about.
- As we look into falconry please favor the traditional uses and do not impact those areas.
- Can CWA and DU make arrangements on clubs that have had NAWCA projects on them to have a drawing for a day where the unattached hunter could use the club. Can the share program administer those hunts.
- Would you consider multiple draws for the lottery at Los Banos check station for Los Banos, Volta, and Merced.
- Why are the eastside wetlands being flooded early by USFWS. This appears to be causing a shift in bird use to the eastside. Can the hunt program be expanded on East Bear Creek. Can there be a hunt program on the Snobird property.
- When will San Joaquin River refuge be open. Can there be a river zone allowing boat hunting during high water from boats only.
- Can the cutoff time for East bear creek be revised to a later time to report back to the check station
- Can the lottery draw start at 5pm and end at 8pm to be consistent throughout the state.