



State of California DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA MUD SLOUGH UNIT

Historically this 620-acre parcel was a part of the Mud Slough floodplain and consisted of meandering channels that held water most of the year. Eventually the area was converted to agriculture by filling the channels and leveling the area so crops could be grown. The Department of Fish and Wildlife was able to purchase the parcel by using proceeds from hunter duck stamps and restored it back to a floodplain with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited. Today the Mud Slough Unit closely resembles its historical state and again consists of aquatic channels that contain water most of the year.

The Mud Slough Unit will be open for hunting for up to 10 parties, depending on how much of it is flooded. Each party will consist of one Junior Licensed hunter and his/her adult supervisor; both the adult and the junior may hunt. Blind sites 1A1 and 1A2 are Pit Blinds (concrete tanks); blind site 2A2 is a Standup Platform; site 2A1 is a Dirt Mound. Hunters are required to hunt from their assigned site and not move to new locations without changing your site through the checking station. Hunting must only take place from the blind except in the assigned pond areas.

Blinds 3A, 3B, 4B, 5A, and 5B are assigned ponds. Hunters may use the blinds but are not restricted to them and can also hunt within the assigned pond. Blind site 3A is a Standup Platform Blind, and sites 3B, 4B, 5A, and 5B are Pit Blinds. Use caution if hunting ponds 3A, 3B, 4B, 5A, or 5B; they have deeper channels running through them (see map), which may be dangerous for small children.

When entering a Pit Blind, check for black widow spiders, snakes, wasps, etc. and please replace blind covers when finished hunting. Although rattlesnakes have not been reported on the Mud Slough Unit, they are common among the duck clubs south of Highway 152, so use caution.

During pheasant season you may leave your assigned blind after 8:00 a.m. to hunt pheasants, or you may take a pheasant-only assignment. If leaving, do not interfere with people still hunting in blinds or ponds. The best pheasant fields are 2B, 4A, the south part of 6B and 7.

Permits must be returned to the Los Banos Wildlife Area checking station at the end of each shoot day to declare your take. We hope you have an enjoyable time hunting.

Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting

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