California Department Of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Desert Region (R6)
Imperial Wildlife Area (IWA)
San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA)
Public Comment and Outreach Meeting
05/30/2023





IWA and SJWA are part of the CDFW's Lands Program, which is responsible for assisting Regional staff in the management of over 1,000,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat. In total the Department of Fish and Wildlife manages over 711 properties throughout the state. These properties provide habitat for a rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant species and comprise habitats from every major ecosystem in the state. In addition, the Lands Program also administers several private lands conservation programs designed to assist landowners with the management of wetlands, riparian habitats, native grasslands and wildlife-friendly farmlands

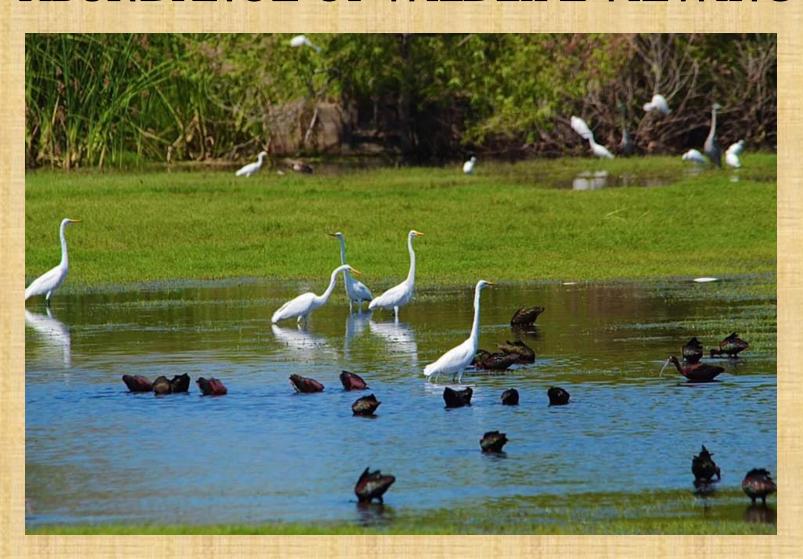
IWA & SJWA ARE TYPE A WILDLIFE AREAS

Type "A" wildlife areas that represent the highest level of recreational use on designation lands for State owned Wildlife Areas.

Type A wildlife areas not *Ecological Reserves* or *Preserves* and must be treated appropriately, although they present some similarities, they are managed differently.

IWA and SJWA have many recreational uses and are supported by active management of facilities including waterfowl ponds and trails. They both have large waterfowl and upland game hunting programs and resources provided by the them include dog training, bird watching, hiking, trail riding and many more.

IWA AND SJWA OFFER AN ABUNDANCE OF WILDLIFE VIEWING



IWA AND SJWA HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES 2022/2023

- We would like to thank all our hunters for your diligence last couple
 of years during the Covid-19 pandemic. You were very
 understanding and adaptable during the season and we
 appreciated your patience! I would also like to thank our staff for
 their willingness to run these areas at some risk to their health and
 that of their families. We are fortunate to have people so dedicated
 to public service.
- PR Funding was cut this year 8.9 million dollars and back filed with Fire Resiliency Funding. Additionally, there is a 21.4% overhead rate further diminishing O&E funds for the Regions staffed lands. We hope the realignment of the programs receiving PR Funding will help wildlife area budgets moving forward.

FISH AND GAME CODE

- FISH AND GAME CODE
- DIVISION 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME [700 1940]
- CHAPTER 7.5. Native Species Conservation and Enhancement [1750 1772]
- ARTICLE 2.5. Bird Habitat Conservation [1758- 1758.]
- 1758.
- 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.)

IMPERIAL WILDLIFE AREA WISTER AND FINNEY RAMER UNITS

Imperial Wildlife Area 8700 Davis Rd. Niland CA. 92257 (760) 359-0577

Scott Sewell- Senior Fish Wildlife & Habitat Supervisor Cris Crecelius- Wildlife Habitat Supervisor II Vacant- Office Technician Aurelio Hernandez- Wildlife Habitat Supervisor I Andrew Penson- Wildlife Habitat Assistant David Clemmer- Fish and Wildlife Technician Robert Sotelo- Fish and Wildlife Technician Jonathan Herrera- Fish and Wildlife Technician Vacant- Fish and Wildlife Technician Vacant- (LT/Drought) Fish and Wildlife Technician Seasonal Aid- Francisco Lopez



GENERAL COMMENTS

- No changes as of yet to IWA water allocation from IID. Estimated 90% of wildlife area will be flooded and huntable by opening of waterfowl. Current and updated pond conditions will be provided at check station.
- IWA staff continue working on vegetation reduction (Tamarisks/Cattails/Arundo) throughout the wildlife area to reduce fuels and increase hunter access. Continuous vegetation management projects include revegetation with more desirable species (Mesquite, Palo Verde, Cottonwood, Willow, Bulrush, Wild Millet, etc.). SB170, Drought, and Bio Diversity funds helped considerably with equipment repairs, materials, equipment, seed, contracts, and staffing. Supply chain issues remain an issue with the delivery of items purchased.
- Ramer Lake closed to public due to levee failure. Engineering is currently working with contractors to repair. Currently no estimated time of reopening. Finney Lake is currently open to public. Finney Ramer Unit Habitat Restoration project with River Partners began last year and has made significant progress in tamarisk and trash removal. Project will continue removal of Tamarisk and other undesirables and revegetation of native desert riparian species as well as road improvements.
- CWA began restoration project at W-11 A,C, and W12 with new pond/blind configuration and larger water control structures to increase water efficiency and conveyance. Y 15-A&B blind configuration and additional leveling. Spring 2024 project will continue with installation of additional pipeline, additional leveling, and blind development.
- Upland Game- 513A Wheat, 312A Wheat, 115A Milo, Y14 Wheat, Wheat Field-Milo, Game farm Wheat, and 138 Wheat. (150 acres)
- Goose fields planted as follows; Y14 Rye, 115 Rye, 312 Wheat, 513-A, Rye Grass, W-11 Wheat/Rye, U10 Rye/Wheat, T10 Rye, S20 Millet/Rye/Wheat. Supply chain issues and availability of various seed has been problematic. (415 acres)
- IWA JR Pheasant Hunt 11/19/2023 online application deadline xx/xx/xx. Family Pheasant Hunt 12/17/2023 online application deadline xx/xx/xx. Seeking volunteers (dog handlers)

TAMARISK/CATTAIL REDUCTION



TIMOTHY/WATERGRASS IRRIGATION



22/23 UPLAND GAME PLANTING



IWA 2023 VOLUNTEER DAYS 3/4/23 AND 10/TBD/23



2022 JR/FAMILY PHEASANT HUNT



IWA NEW EQUIPMENT



NEW SPORTFISH POND VAULT TOILET



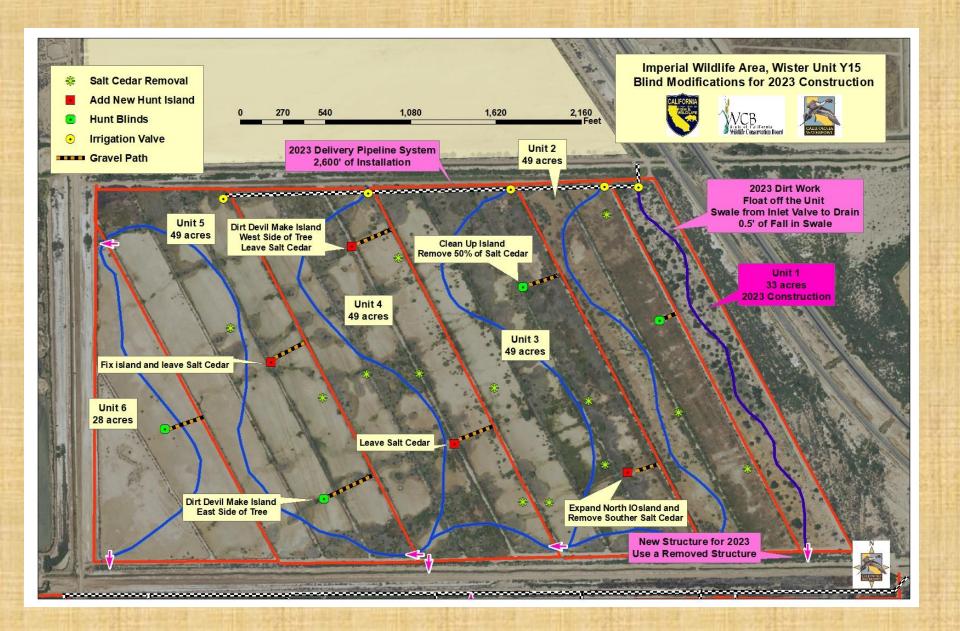
GAME TAKE SPECIES COMPOSITION REPORTS									
AREA:					YEAR: 2022-23				
MONTH January	WED	SAT	SUN	TOTAL		WED	SAT	SUN	TOTAL
Date:					Canada Goose	1	3	0	4
Capacity:					Greater White Fronted	1	7	4	12
Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)					Cackling Goose	0	1	0	1
Wind:(N,S,E,W,C)					Snow Goose	263	251	66	580
					Ross' Goose	6	0	2	8
Mallard	73	167	23	263	Aleutian CAGO	0	2	0	2
Gadwall	247	337	107	691	Other	0	0	0	0
American Wigeon	150	190	59	399	TOTAL GEESE	271	264	72	607
Northern Pintail	498	833	194	1,525					
Green-winged Teal	1,315	2,594	448	4,357	American Coot	38	89	70	197
Cinnamon Teal	479	1,552	298	2,329	TOTAL WATERFOWL	3,635	6,998	1,490	12,123
Northern Shoveler	295	572	141	1,008					
Redhead	7	6	5	18	Snipe	0	0	4	4
Canvasback	4	8	2	14	Pheasant (Wild)	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	79	133	20	232	Pheasant (Planted)	0	0	0	0
Scaup	6	16	8	30					
Bufflehead	89	186	39	314	Adult Pheasant Hunters	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	6	6	2	14	Jr. Pheasant Hunters	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	99	108	61	268	TOTAL PHEASANT HNTRS	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	Adult WF Hunters	1,444	2,653	1,065	5,162
Whistling Duck	0	0	0	0	Jr. WF Hunters	47	134	58	239
Blue-winged Teal	11	19	7	37	Adult Mixed Hunters	0	0	0	0
Other	6	6	1	13	Jr. Mixed Hunters	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	3	4	TOTAL WF/ MIXED HNTRS	1,491	2,787	1,123	5,401
Other	0	0	0	0					
Other	0	0	0	0	Average Ducks	2.26	2.42	1.26	
Other	0	0	0	0	Average Geese	0.18	0.09	0.06	
					Average Waterfowl	2.44	2.51	1.33	
TOTAL DUCKS	3,364	6,734	1,418	11,516	Average Pheasant				
					Reservations Issued				
				Reservations Redeemed					
		_	_		1 Day Passes Redeemed				
					2 Day Passes Redeemed				
					Type A Passes Redeemed				
					Type B Passes Redeemed				



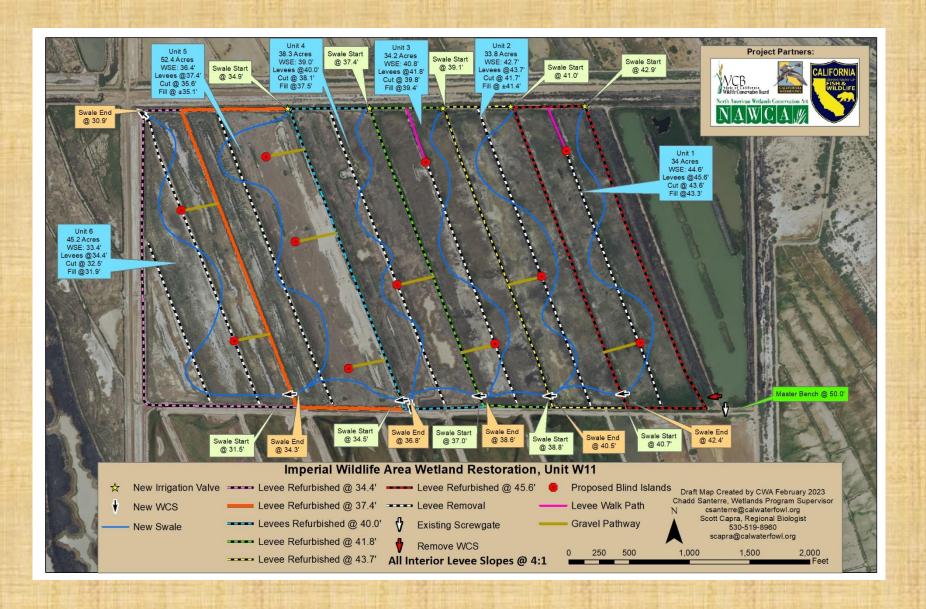


CWA PROJECTS AT IWA

Y15



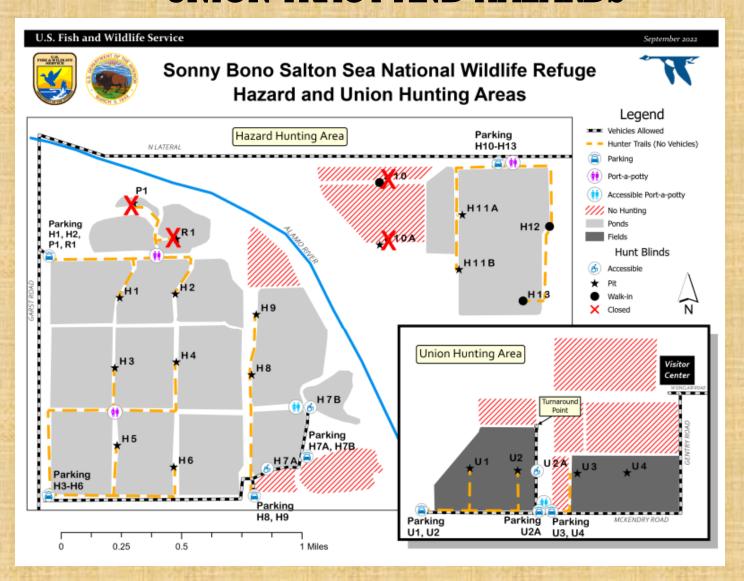
W11



W12 BLIND MAP



SONNY BONNO SALTON SEA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UNION TRACT AND HAZARDS



SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA

San Jacinto Wildlife Area 17050 Davis Rd. Lakeview, CA. 92567 (951) 928-0580

Scott Sewell- Senior Fish Wildlife & Habitat Supervisor Vacant- Wildlife Habitat Supervisor I Carlos Gutierrez- Wildlife Habitat Assistant James Romero- Fish and Wildlife Technician Shane Reed- Fish and Wildlife Technician Ricky Gardenias- Fish and Wildlife Technician Fernando Becerra- Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aid Vacant- Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aid



R6/LANDS/SJWA-05/24/2023



GENERAL COMMENTS FOR SJWA'S WETLANDS

- Management of SJWA's wildlife, habitats and programs will remain the same as previous years.
- Water allocation from EMWD remain the same but the water costs are rising considerably. This will be challenging for SJWA, but we will work through it. Estimated 95-100% of waterfowl area will be flooded by opening of waterfowl season.
- SJWA staff mowed and disced vegetation to reduce fuels and overgrowth of undesired veg for increase hunter access within the waterfowl ponds and marshes throughout the wildlife area. Future vegetation management projects include mowing, discing, herbicide treatments and potentially prescribed burns and grazing. Also, revegetation with more desirable species (Cottonwood and Willows) and an overall decrease of noxious weeds.
- CWA will begin work on our front entry wetland enhancement project with new configurations for better water efficiency and conveyance.
- In preparation for 2024 projects, SJWA will be drying up Ponds 1,2,3 and 4 and the G marshes a little earlier than normal.
- Millet was planted in 2022/23 as follows; F- 1,2,3 & 4, G- 1 &2, Marsh Y and Z, Walkers 1,3,5,6,7
 &8.
- SJWA plans to repeat the same planting effort for the 2023/04 season

WATERFOWL HABITAT AT SJWA

-WITH THE LARGE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL THIS PAST YEAR EVERYTHING IS RUNNING A LITTLE BEHIND SCHEDULE-

DRAWDOWNS OF WETLANDS- MARCH, APRIL & MAY SPRING & SUMMER WETLAND IRRIGATIONS- APRIL, MAY & JUNE FALL FLOOD WILL BEGAN IN AUGUST

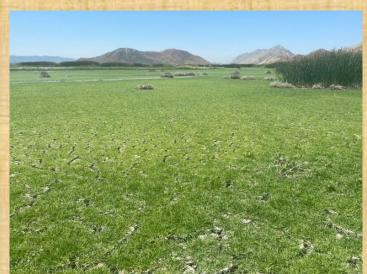




IRRIGATED WETLANDS FOR HABITAT







GAME TAKE SPECIES COMPOSITION REPORTS

AREA: San Jacinto Wildlife Area MONTH WED SAT Date: Capacity: Weather:(R,S,C,O,F) Wind:(N,S,E,W,C)	SUN	YEAR: 2022-2023 Canada Goose Greater White Fronted	WED	SAT 9	SUN
Date: Capacity: Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)	SUN		WED		SUN
Capacity: Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)			0.00	0	
Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)		Greater White Fronted			
				18	
Wind:(N,S,E,W,C)		Cackling Goose	ornin.	3	
		Snow Goose	10.00	19	
		Ross' Goose		3	
Mallard 198		Aleutian		1	
Gadwall 823		Other	(1) A (1)		
American Wigeon 683		TOTAL GEESE	0	53	0
Northern Pintail 364		Call an animal man in the	Himsu	112	
Green-winged Teal 2,796	III (d	American Coot	19111	354	11000
Cinnamon Teal 683		TOTAL WATERFOWL	0	10,020	0
Northern Shoveler 2,734					
Redhead 30		Snipe	10 45		
Canvasback 26		Pheasant (Wild)			
Ring-necked Duck 470		Pheasant (Planted)			
Scaup 21	i				
Bufflehead 314		Adult Pheasant Hunters			
Goldeneye 15		Jr. Pheasant Hunters			
Ruddy Duck 429		TOTAL PHEASANT HNTRS	0	0	0
Wood Duck 6		Adult WF Hunters		4,312	Test 1
Blue-Winged Teal 12		Jr. WF Hunters		238	
Whistling Duck 1		Adult Mixed Hunters	OFFICE		
Merganser 8	-	Jr. Mixed Hunters	Section 1999		
Other		TOTAL WF/ MIXED HNTRS	0	4,550	0
Other		A LET LA SERVICE LA SE			
Other		Average Ducks	#DIV/0!	2.11	#DIV/0!
Other	7 180	Average Geese	#DIV/0!	0.01	#DIV/0!
DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF STREET	1155	Average Waterfowl	#DIV/0!	2.20	#DIV/0!
TOTAL DUCKS 0 9,613	0	Average Pheasant	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
			12000		
Reservations Issued 1,610		1 Day Passes Redeemed	1000	2,758	
Reservations Redeemed 912		2 Day Passes Redeemed			
		Type A Passes Redeemed		1,554	
		Type B Passes Redeemed			

WEATHER: R - RAIN; S - SNOW; C - CLEAR; O - OVERCAST/CLOUDY; F - FOG **WINDS:** N - NORTH; S - SOUTH; E - EAST; W - WEST; C - CALM

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-2022 Season Total... × 555 - Jordan Impleme...

GAME TAKE SPECIES COMPOSITION REPORTS

MONTH	WED	SAT	SUN		WED	SAT
Date: Season Total				Canada Goose		8
Capacity:				Greater White Fronted		1
Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)				Cackling Goose		2
Wind:(N,S,E,W,C)				Snow Goose		12
				Ross' Goose		1
Mallard		255		Aleutian		2
Gadwall		735		Other		
American Wigeon		436		TOTAL GEESE	0	26
Northern Pintail		306				
Green-winged Teal		2,327		American Coot		303
Cinnamon Teal		387		TOTAL WATERFOWL	0	8,572
Northern Shoveler		2,833				
Redhead		41		Snipe		
Canvasback		31		Pheasant (Wild)		
Ring-necked Duck		239		Pheasant (Planted)		
Scaup		8				
Bufflehead		291		Adult Pheasant Hunters		
Goldeneye		26		Jr. Pheasant Hunters		
Ruddy Duck		308		TOTAL PHEASANT HNTRS	0	0
Wood Duck		0		Adult WF Hunters		4,282
Blue-Winged Teal		4		Jr. WF Hunters		303
Whistling Duck		0		Adult Mixed Hunters		
Merganser		16		Jr. Mixed Hunters		
Other				TOTAL WF/ MIXED HNTRS	0	4,585
Other						
Other				Average Ducks	#DIV/0!	1.80
Other				Average Geese	#DIV/0!	0.01
				Average Waterfowl	#DIV/0!	1.87
TOTAL DUCKS	0	8,243	0	Average Pheasant	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0
Reservations Issued		1,558		1 Day Passes Redeemed		2,418
Reservations Redeemed		826		2 Day Passes Redeemed		
				Type A Passes Redeemed		1,864
				Type B Passes Redeemed		

WEATHER: R - RAIN; S - SNOW; C - CLEAR; O - OVERCAST/CLOUDY; F - FOG

COMPARISON OF 2021-22 AND 2022-23

2021-2022-Hunters- 4585

2021-2022 Birds harvested -8572

2022-2023 Hunters -4550

2022-2023- Birds Harvested -10,020

1 & 2 Birds remain Northern Shovelers and Green Wing Teal.

#3 is still Gadwall

#4 is American Wigeon

GAME TAKE SPECIES COMPOSITION REPORTS

MONTH	2022	2023			2022	2023
Date:	1	2		Canada Goose	8	9
Capacity:				Greater White Fronted	1	18
Weather:(R,S,C,O,F)				Cackling Goose	2	3
Wind:(N,S,E,W,C)				Snow Goose	12	19
	100			Ross' Goose	1	3
Mallard	255			Aleutian	2	1
Gadwall	735	823		Other		
American Wigeon	436	683		TOTAL GEESE	0	53
Northern Pintail	306	364			T	Š.
Green-winged Teal	2327	2,796		American Coot		0
Cinnamon Teal	387	683		TOTAL WATERFOWL	0	9,666
Northern Shoveler	2833	2,734				
Redhead	41	30		Snipe		
Canvasback	31	26		Pheasant (Wild)		j.
Ring-necked Duck	239	470		Pheasant (Planted)		-
Scaup	8	21				ě.
Bufflehead	291	314		Adult Pheasant Hunters		
Goldeneye	26	15		Jr. Pheasant Hunters		
Ruddy Duck	308	429		TOTAL PHEASANT HNTRS	0	0
Wood Duck		6		Adult WF Hunters	4282	4,312
Blue-Winged Teal	4	12		Jr. WF Hunters	303	238
Whistling Duck		. 1		Adult Mixed Hunters		
Merganser	16	8		Jr. Mixed Hunters		63
Other				TOTAL WF/ MIXED HNTRS	0	4,550
Other						
Other				Average Ducks	0.00	2.11
Other				Average Geese	0.00	0.01
				Average Waterfowl	0.00	2.12
TOTAL DUCKS	0	9,613	0	Average Pheasant	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0
Reservations Issued				1 Day Passes Redeemed	2418	2,758
Reservations Redeemed	826	912		2 Day Passes Redeemed		
				Type A Passes Redeemed	1864	1,554
				Type B Passes Redeemed		

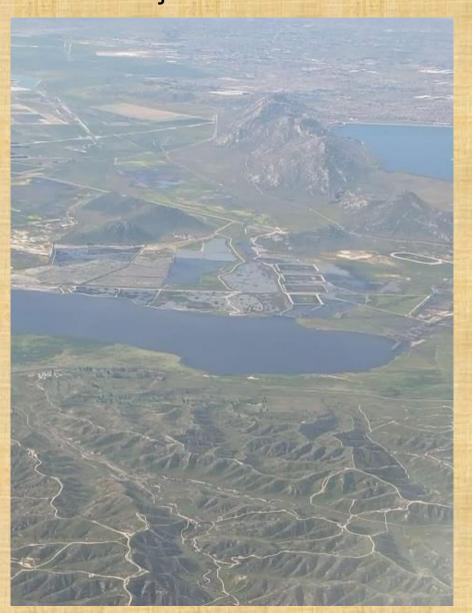
WEATHER: R - RAIN; S - SNOW; C - CLEAR; O - OVERCAST/CLOUDY; F - FOG WINDS: N - NORTH; S - SOUTH; E - EAST; W - WEST; C - CALM

SJWA HUNTER RESERVATIONS 2023/2024 QUOTAS ARE OUR BEST ESTIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

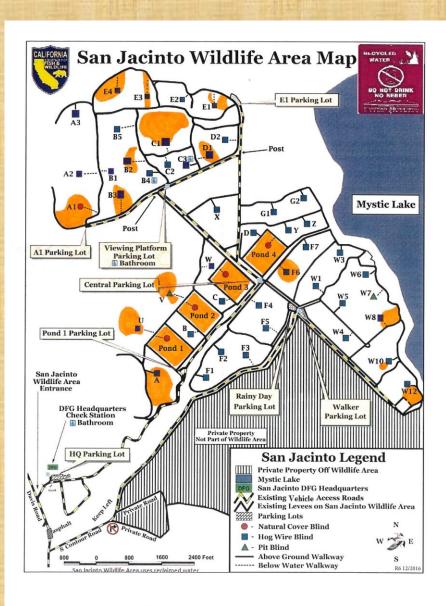
Date	Acres Flooded	2022-23 Hunter Quota	2021-22 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	850-950	50	50
November 1	950	50	50
December l	950	50	50
January l	950	50	50

GOOD NEWS- MYSTIC LAKE IS FULL

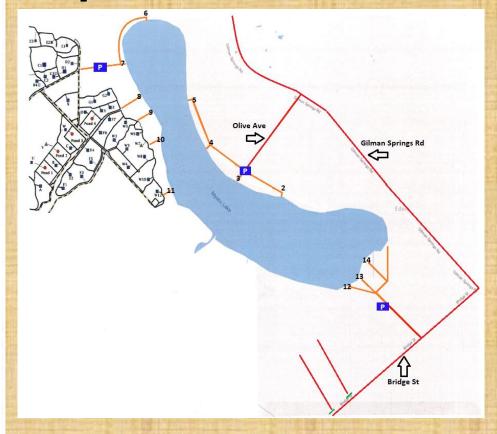
PC: JAMES ROMERO



SJWA WATERFOWL HUNT MAP



 Mystic Lake will have blinds this year.



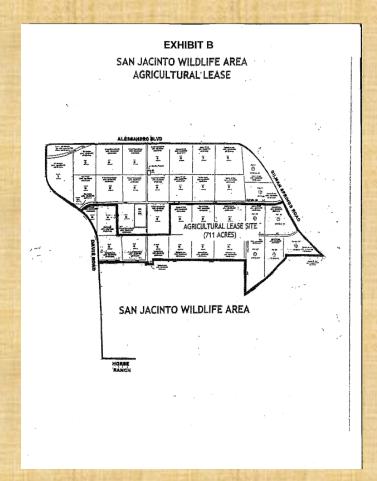
FUTURE WETLAND PROJECTS

- 1- LASER LEVELING ALL THE WETLAND UNITS
- 2- NEW UNITS- G3 & G4 -21 NEW ACRES
- 3- A1,2 & 3- 30 MORE ACRES
- 4-WALKERS-5 ACRES
- 5- CLOSED ZONE BEHIND U, V AND W -32 ACRES





NEW AND RENEWABLE LEASE AGREEMENTS 1. AGRICULTURAL LEASE -711 ACRES 2. GRAZING LEASE





2022 EARLY BIRDS ARRIVING AT SJWA



2022 SJWA UPLAND GAME HABITAT

- Upland Game habitat was planted with wheat; 60 acres in the Upland Game Unit west of Davis road, 80 acres in the Dog Training and upland Unit east of Davis road, 100 acres at Bridge Street and 25 acres north Marsh W.
- SJWA's habitat was robust and ready to go but the birds didn't stay around as the summer monsoon and erratic weather persisted.

Dove Opener Morning, Sept 1st, 2022 Hunters – 110 Mourning Dove – 177 White Wing Dove-0 Average – 1.6

Hunters came from the counties of Imperial, Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, San Diego and San Luis Obispo.

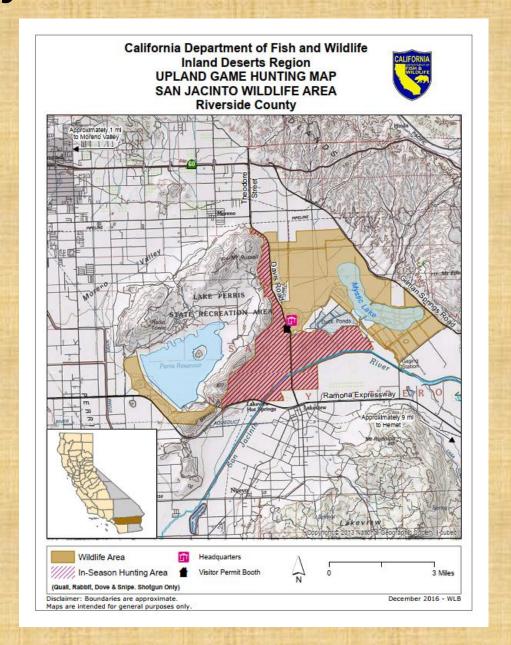
SJWA Pheasant Hunt Schedule; Youth Hunt- 11/05/2022, Family Hunt- 12/11/2022, Women's Hunt- 1/15/2023

2023 SJWA UPLAND GAME HABITAT

SO FAR THIS YEAR, UPLAND GAME HABITAT WAS PLANTED AGAIN IN WHEAT;
40 ACRES IN THE UPLAND GAME UNIT WEST OF DAVIS ROAD,
30 ACRES IN THE DOG TRAINING AND UPLAND UNIT EAST OF DAVIS ROAD,
70 ACRES AT BRIDGE STREET AND
WE WILL BE PLANTING 20 ACRES NORTH MARSH W



SJWA UPLAND GAME MAP

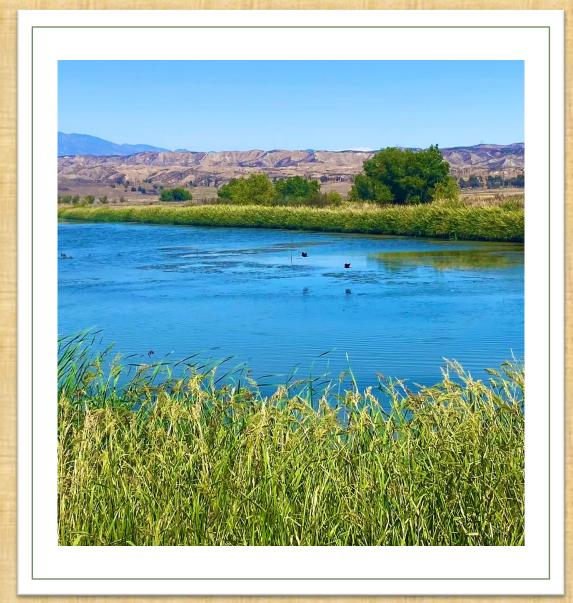


UPLAND GAME / SKR MOWING



DOG TRAINING, HUNT TEST AND FIELD TRIAL AREA OPEN - JUNE 1ST - APRIL 30TH CLOSED - MARCH 1ST - MAY 31ST





FUTURE DOG TRAINING AREA PROJECTS

1. BUILD PONDS FOR WATER WORK

2. EXPAND THE AREA

SJWA VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY DAYS ARIL 8,2023/ JULY 2023/ SEPTEMBER 2023 AND MAYBE MORE





CWA PROJECTS AT SJWA

CWA SWALES AND DELIVERY DITCH WORK IN 2022



CWA 2023 ENHANCEMENT WORK FOOD PLOT AND ENTRY WETLAND







SJWA SHOREBIRD HABITAT



SJWA'S ENTRY KIOSK

















CDFW LAND PASS FEE'S

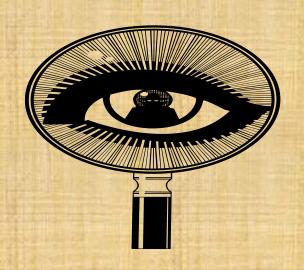


NEW EQUIPMENT AT SJWA

 During the past 2 years, our lands program has been working on acquiring assets from the Wildfire Resiliency fund that was possible via SB 85, SB170 and now SB176, including rentals.



PLEASE 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 SJWA (951) 928-0580, IWA (760) 359-0577 or report your observations to check station staff as soon as possible.

AVIAN INFLUENZA AND WATERFOWL HUNTERS

- Waterfowl hunting season is set to open in some parts of the state on Saturday, October 1. As the Eurasian strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 continues to impact wild and domestic birds statewide, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommends hunters take precautions to limit the spread of infection. Since mid-July, HPAI H5N1 has been detected in 66 wild birds from 19 counties including Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Mendocino, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Trinity and Yolo. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has also reported detections of HPAI H5N1 in domestic birds in Butte, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Sacramento and Tuolumne counties.
- HPAI virus is contagious among birds, and domestic birds such as chickens are especially vulnerable. Some wild birds such as dabbling ducks may carry and spread the virus but show no signs of illness. Other birds may develop mild to severe signs of illness and die from infection such as geese, waterbirds (including American white pelicans), raptor predators and avian scavengers (including turkey vultures).
- Avian influenza spreads through direct bird-to-bird contact and may also spread to birds through
 contaminated surfaces including hands, shoes, clothing and gear like vehicle tires and decoys. While the
 Centers for Disease Control considers the transmission risk of avian influenza to people to be low, waterfowl
 hunters are advised to take precautions to protect themselves, hunting dogs, falconry birds, poultry and pet
 birds.

THANK YOU



THANK YOU

- To you, our Public for participating in this online information outreach meeting and supporting our Wildlife Areas
- To the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sonny Bonno NWR for continuing our hunting opportunities.
- Eastern Municipal Water District and Imperial Irrigation
 District for supporting our wetland programs in southern
 California.
- IWA and SJWA staff for all their hard work year after year.
- California Waterfowl Association for their continued support and hard work on restoration and enhancement work.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

SCOTT.SEWELL@WILDLIFE.CA.GOV

CRISTOPHER.CRECELIUS@WILDLIFE.CA.GOV

CSANTERRE@CALWATERFOWL.ORG

