

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

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Fish and Wildlife

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

- ◉ Review of 2023/24 habitat conditions
- ◉ Review of 2023/24 harvest records
- ◉ 2024/25 habitat conditions
- ◉ 2024/25 Changes to Hunt Area
- ◉ Disease updates
 - COVID-19
 - Chronic Wasting Disease
- ◉ Summer Wildlife Surveys
- ◉ Expected Hunter Opportunities

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

- 2023/24 habitat conditions and water availability.
 - 100% level 2 and level 4 allocations.
 - Irrigated over 2,000 acres of wetlands.

Year in Review

2023/2024

● Hunting conditions and changes

- Open for 100% of available waterfowl hunt days, quotas significantly reduced at the beginning of the season.
- Quotas adjusted upwards as the season progressed.
- Hunter success was variable, considerably lower than previous seasons.









Hunt Results

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<i>Waterfowl Harvested</i>			
Ducks	16871	16,309	8,794
Geese	1019	980	309
Coots	223	196	181
Total Waterfowl Harvested	18113	17485	9284
Season Average	2.02	2.18	1.26
<i>Upland Game Harvested</i>			
Snipe	9	24	53
Pheasant (Wild)	18	3	8
Fall Turkey	3	6	36
Spring Turkey	35	32	28

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

- 2024/25 habitat conditions and water availability.
- We had water!
 - We could irrigate and flood up as budgets allowed.
 - Cocklebur was set back in large areas
 - Diverse Moist Soil Plants grew

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Field 69



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Field 74



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Field 88



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Field 7



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

● Field Work

- Field manipulations for fields 21 & 22 to improve upland nesting habitat and efficiency of wetland flood-up in coordination with DU
- Some fields, primarily in closed zone, were heavily disked for early successional habitat management.
- Mowing, disking, irrigations completed during summer months to grow food.
- Water delivery infrastructure improvements completed – ditches cleaned.

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Field 21



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

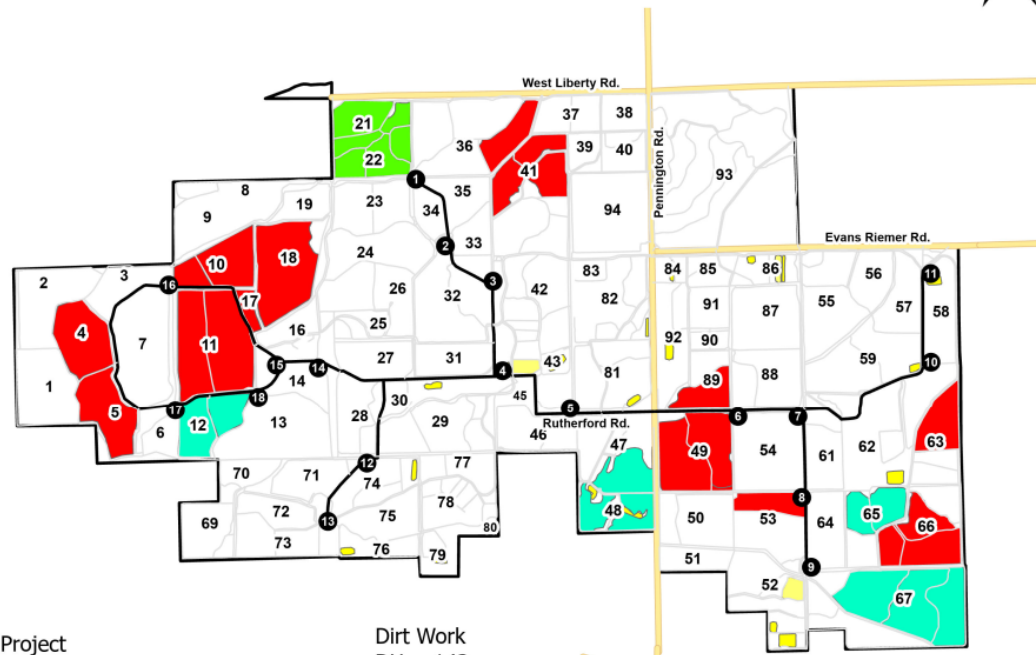
Field 5



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area



Spring/Summer Dirt Work



- DU Project
- Disk
- Mow
- Food Plot

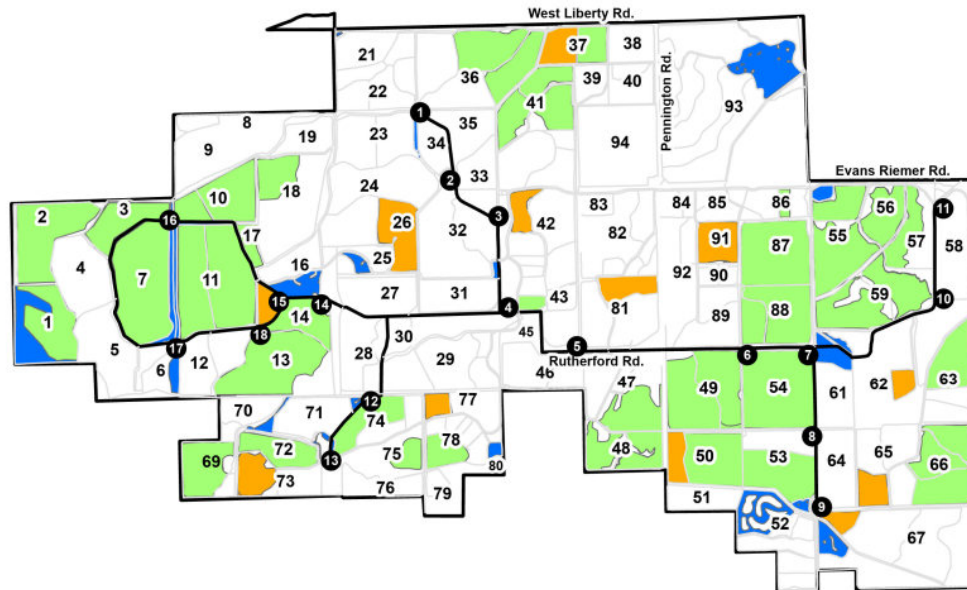
Dirt Work
DU = 143
Disking = 616
Mowing = 234
Food Plots = 68
Total Acres = 1061

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area



GLWA 2024 Summer Water



- Irrigation
- Brood Pond
- Permanent Pond

Summer Water Acreage
Brood Ponds = 310
Irrigation = 2380
Permanent Ponds = 256
Total Acres = 2946

0 0.25 0.5 1
Miles

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area



2024 Flood-Up Schedule



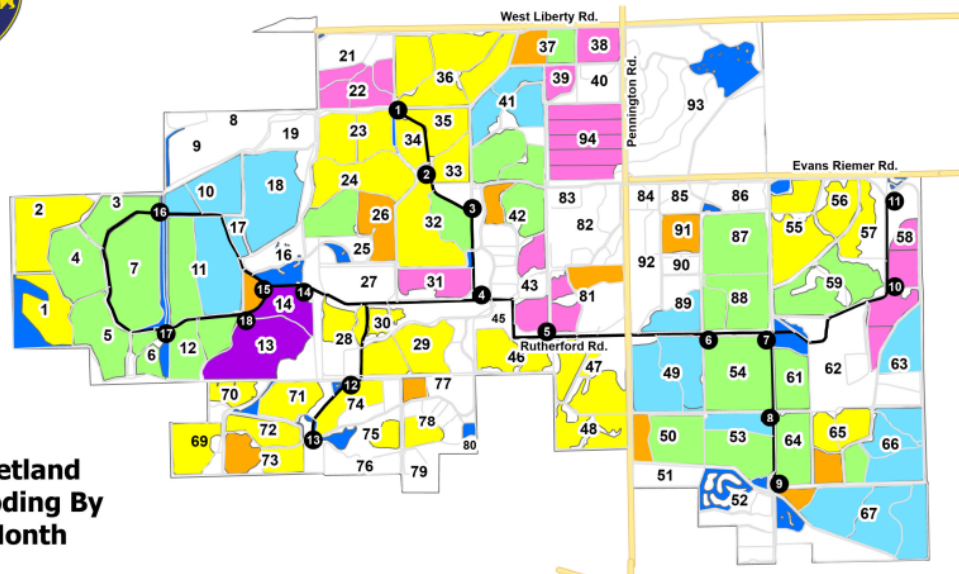
Wetland Flooding By Month

Month

- August
- Summer Water
- July
- October
- September
- Late
- Permanent Pond

Summer Water = 294
July = 163
August = 843
September = 1713
October = 1615
Late = 516
Total Flooded Acres = 5144

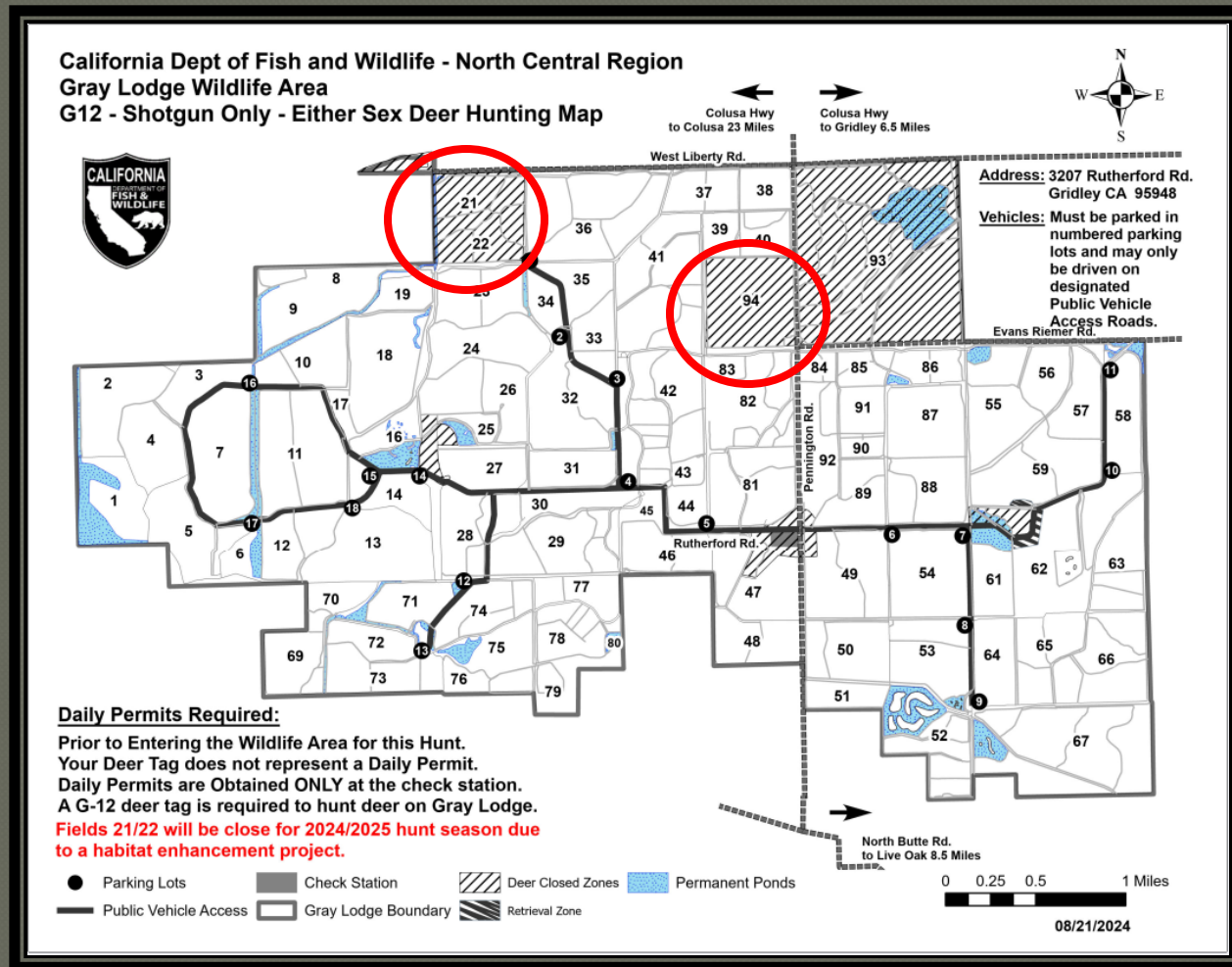
Flooded Acres
Hunt Zone = 3823
Closed Zone = 1321
Permanent Ponds = 278
Total Acres = 5422
Estimated Hunter Quota Opening day = TBD
Freeroam Quota = 240
MI Blinds Flooded = 1,2,3,4,5
Total Flooded Acres by the end of October = 4628



08/2024

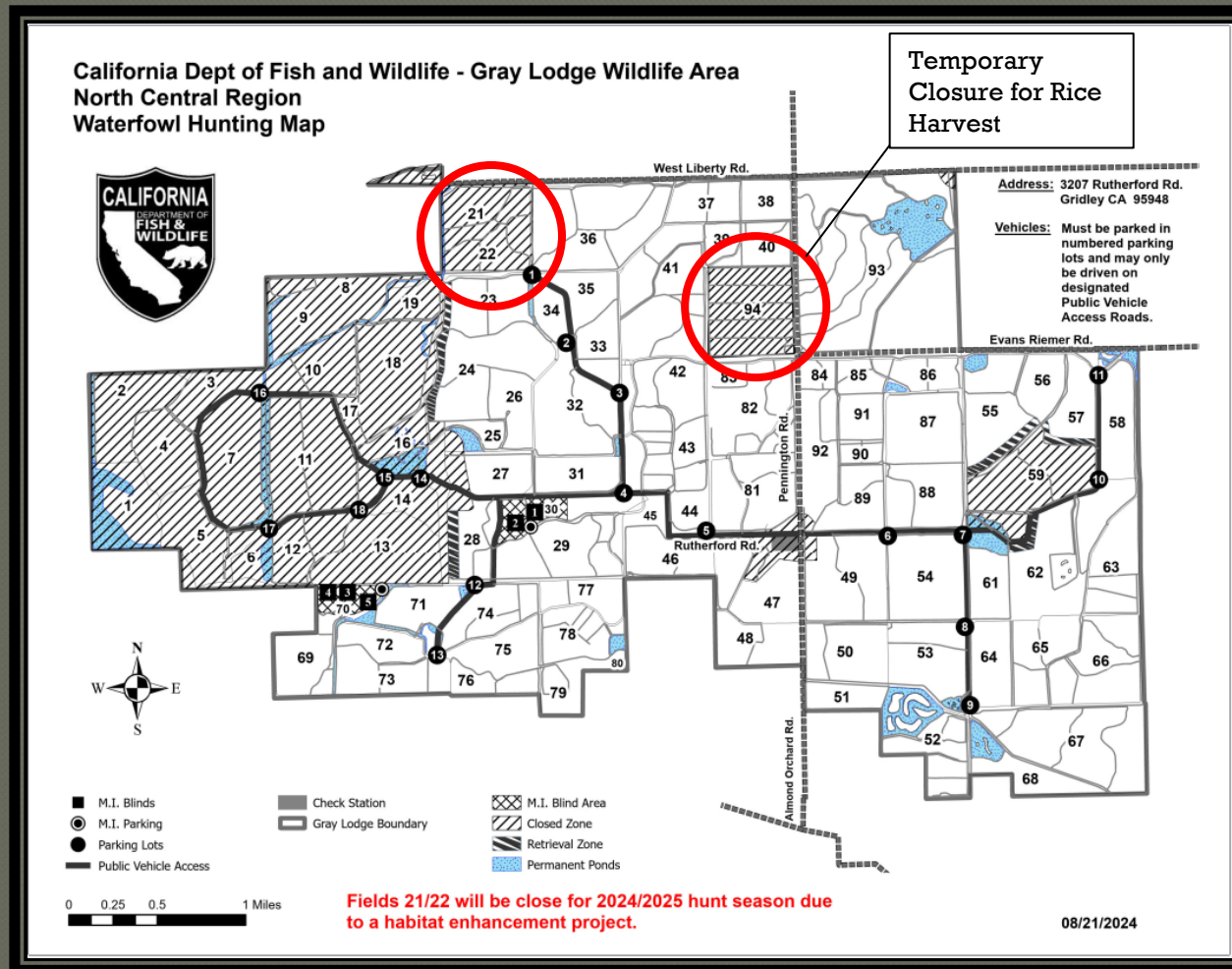
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

2024/2025 Hunt Area Change



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

2024/2025 Hunt Area Change



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area 2024/2025 Hunt Area Change

- Gray Lodge will be utilizing Wildlife Area Processing (WLAP) computer system for hunter check in/check out this season.
- Processing may take longer than expected or what hunters are used to.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

COVID-19

- Check station staff will follow current guidelines for California Department of Public Health, the CDC, and Butte County.
- Social distancing in front of the check station while interacting with staff is encouraged.
- Camping will be allowed.*

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in California's deer herd.
- CWD has been detected in Inyo and Madera Counties. The Fish and Game Commission has adopted emergency regulations in response to these detections. All hunters who harvest a deer within zones D7, X9a, X9b, and X9c must provide a retropharyngeal lymph node or the head from their harvest for CWD testing.
- Other deer zones are voluntary testing at check stations or offices. Check website for locations.

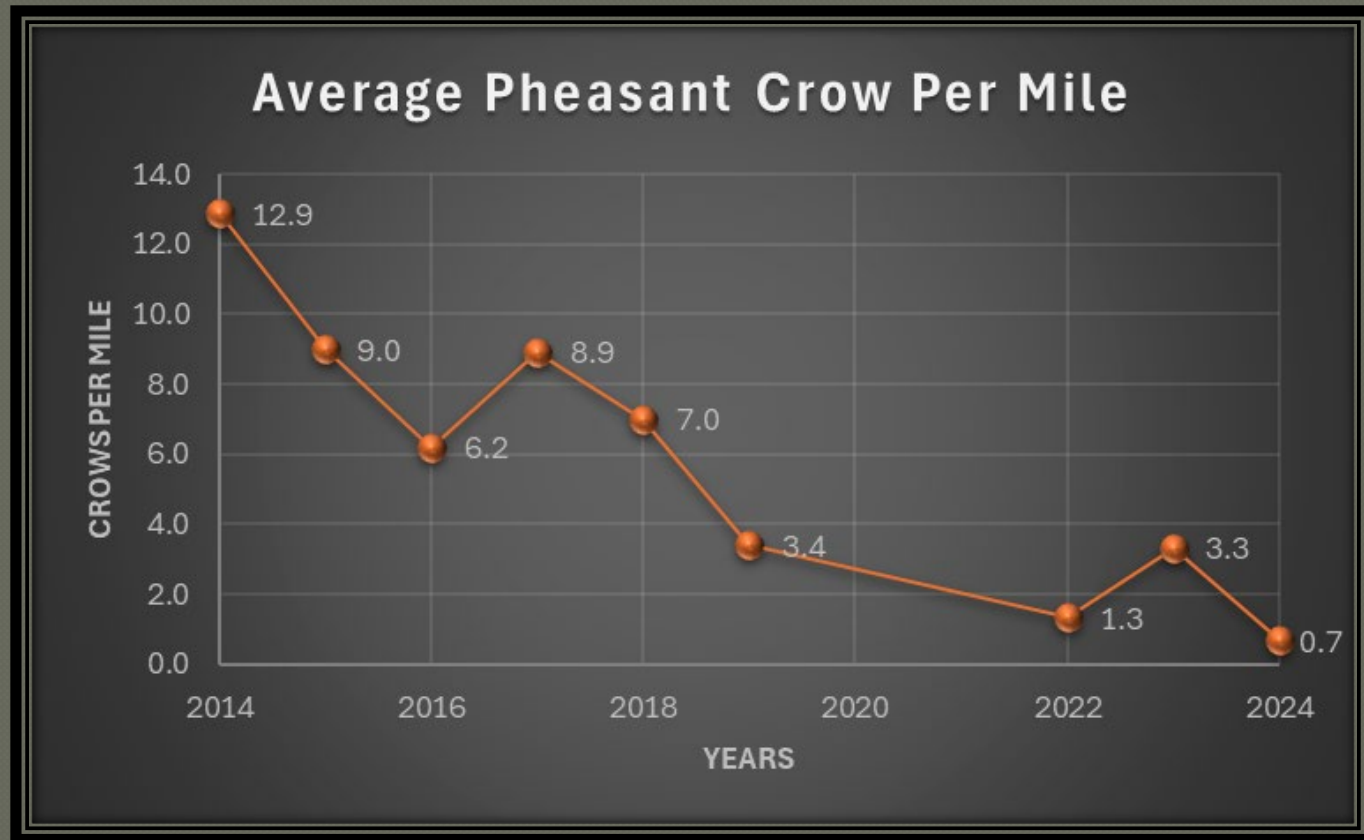
- [Chronic Wasting Disease \(ca.gov\)](http://ca.gov)

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

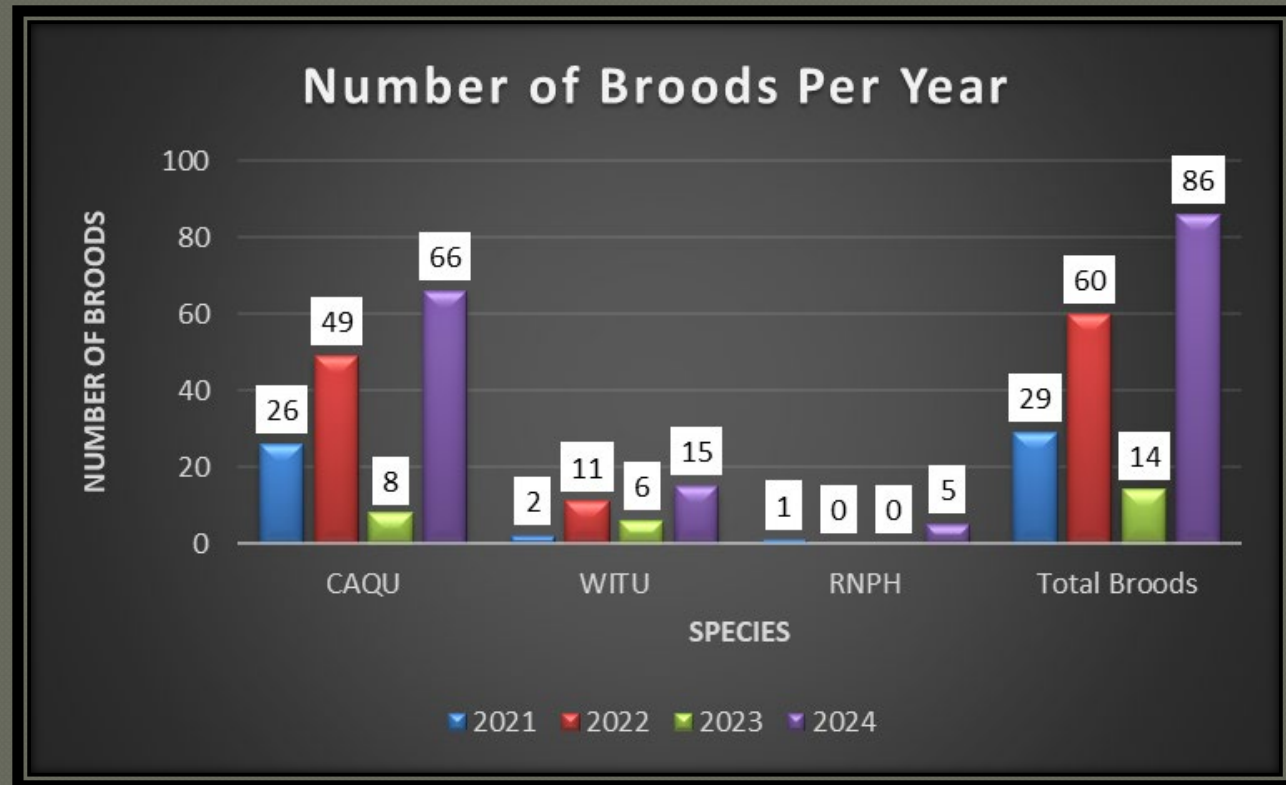
Summer Surveys

- Pheasant Call Counts
- Upland Brood Survey
- Waterfowl Brood Survey

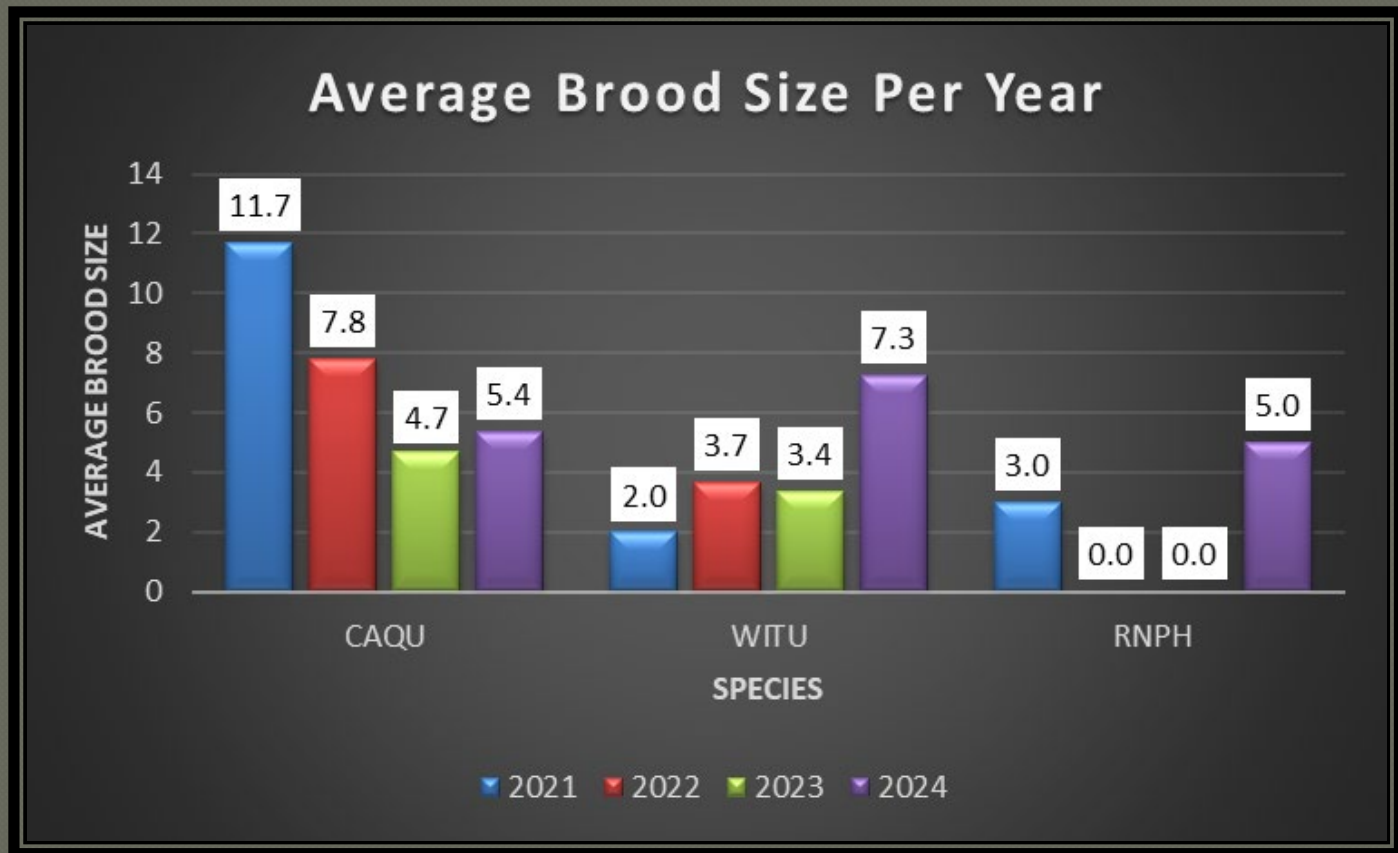
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Pheasant Call Count



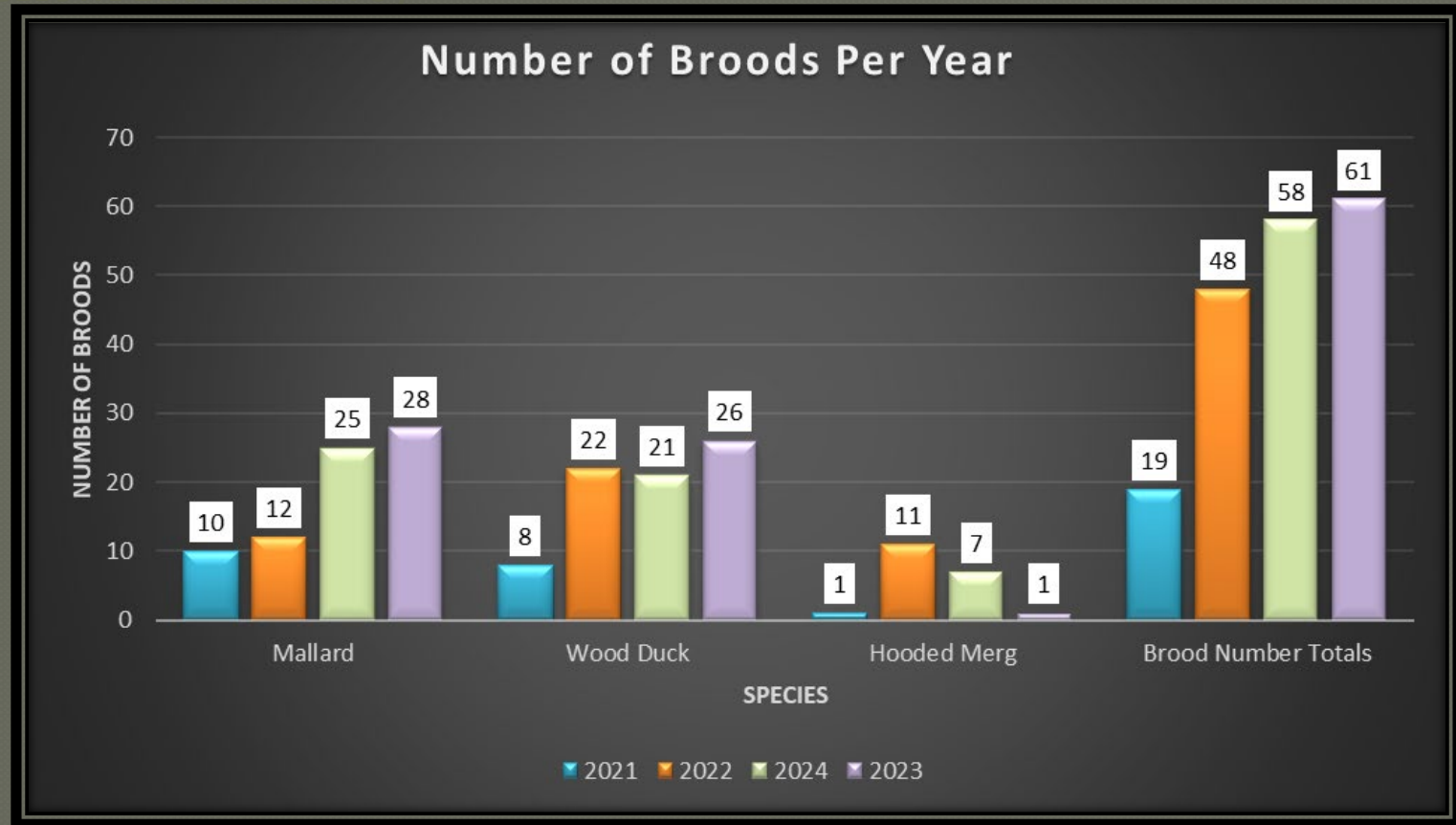
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Upland Brood Survey



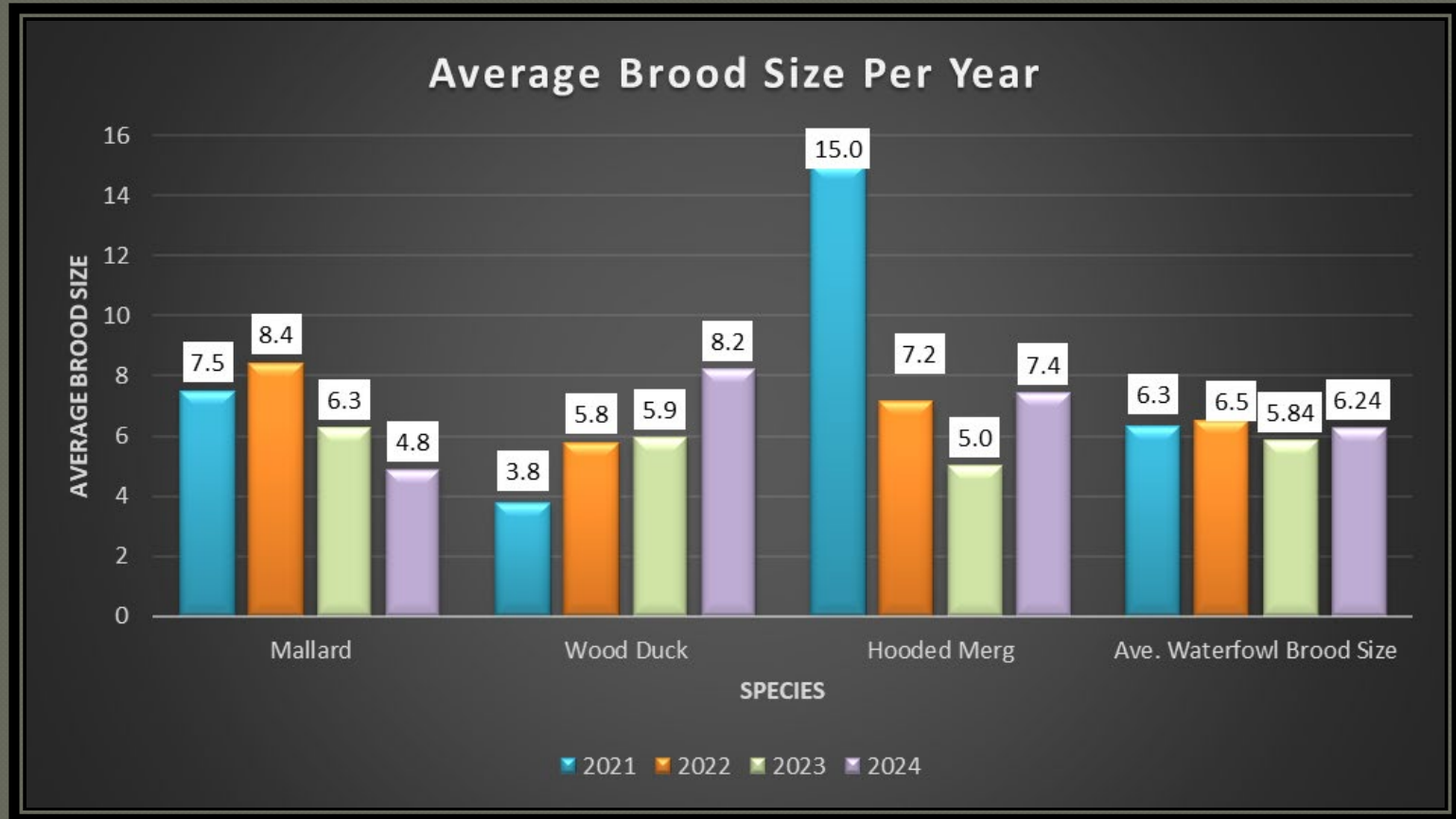
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Upland Brood Survey



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Waterfowl Brood Survey



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Waterfowl Brood Survey



Expected Opportunities

- Gray Lodge Wildlife Area be open for waterfowl hunting on October 26th.
 - Quotas will be set closer to opening day.
- Corn, Milo, Safflower and Sunflower plots scattered across wildlife area.
- Pheasants, wild turkey, late dove, snipe all will be open concurrent with their seasons, on waterfowl shoot days
- Quail and rabbits will be open concurrent with pheasant season, on waterfowl shoot days

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Hunting Opportunities

The Department continually evaluates the hunting program at GLWA to determine whether its operation is consistent with the goals of the area and whether it is meeting the needs of the public. The Department has to consider several issues when evaluating the hunting program including:

- Ensuring public safety
- Providing a quality hunting opportunity
- Providing equal access to the area for all hunters
- Maintaining quality habitat and healthy game populations

Assigned Blinds

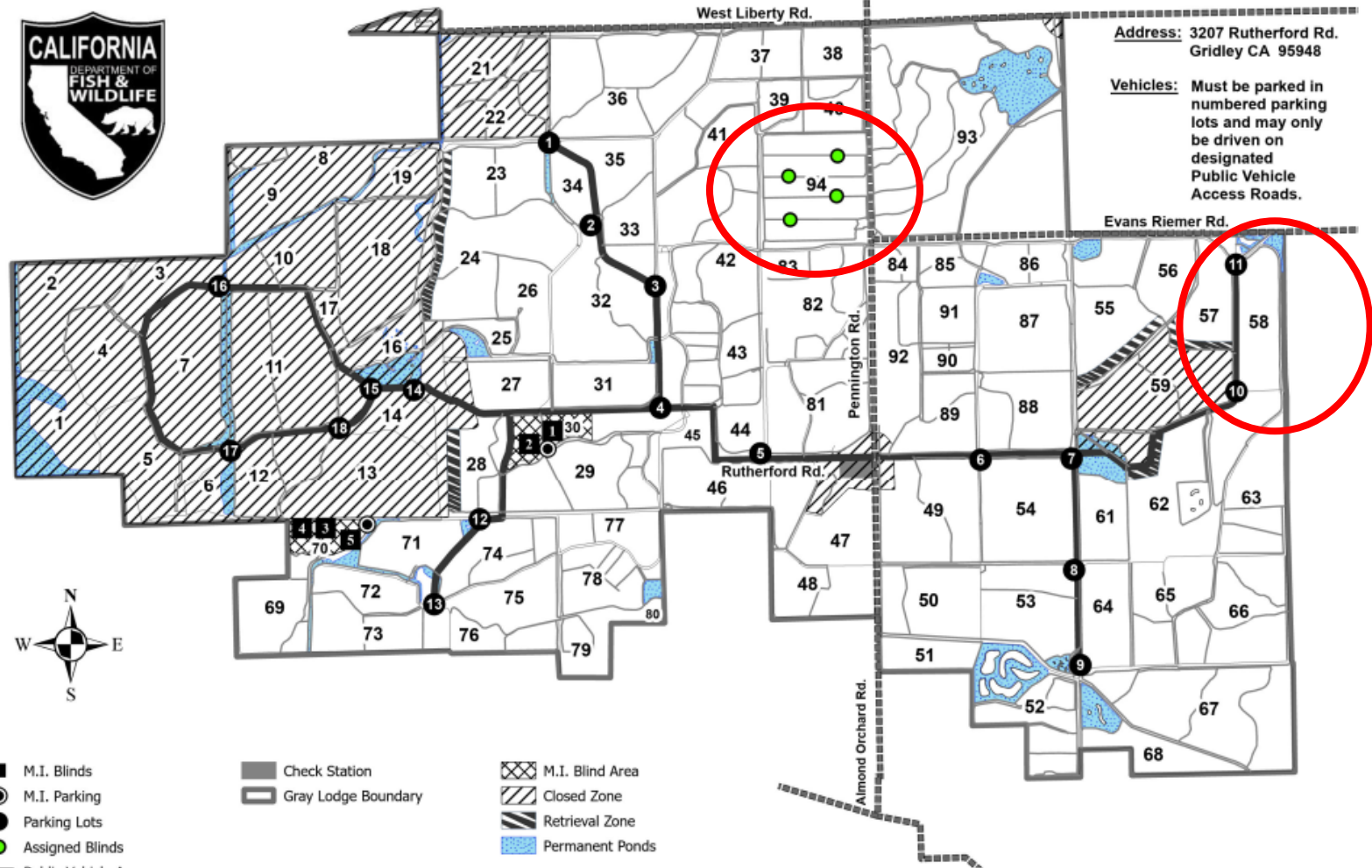
● Add Assigned Blinds to Rice field

- Grant funds in place to purchase and install four rice blinds in field 94, most likely for 2025.
- Will be assigned as part of the morning entry.
- Rice blind only parking will be established at rice landing near intersection of Pennington/Evans Reimer.
- Refills will be allowed.

● Field 58 mobility impaired blinds

- Grant funds secured for field enhancements and blind placement in 2025.
- Provides opportunity for Mobility Impaired hunters.

California Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Gray Lodge Wildlife Area North Central Region Waterfowl Hunting Map



Address: 3207 Rutherford Rd.
Gridley CA 95948

Vehicles: Must be parked in
numbered parking
lots and may only
be driven on
designated
Public Vehicle
Access Roads.



- M.I. Blinds
- M.I. Parking
- Parking Lots
- Assigned Blinds
- Public Vehicle Access

- Check Station
- Gray Lodge Boundary

- M.I. Blind Area
- Closed Zone
- Retrieval Zone
- Permanent Ponds

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Fields 21/22 will be close for 2024/2025 hunt season due
to a habitat enhancement project.

08/5/2024

Additional Assigned Blinds or Fields

- None currently planned; however, the topic is still being reviewed for potential future implementation.

Questions?

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