



2011 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON UPDATE

AUGUST 2011

Waterfowl season is rapidly approaching and now is the time to prepare for opening day. This newsletter contains information that will assist you in applying for reservations to hunt waterfowl on state-operated wildlife areas and inform you of changes in check station operations. Waterfowl hunting regulation booklets will be available in September. Season summaries and complete regulations are available on the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) web site at: www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations.

No Sales at Check Stations

Check stations at Type A Wildlife Areas will no longer sell permits, passes, or any license items on-site. Hunters will need to make all such purchases in advance. One-day passes, which were formerly available only at waterfowl check stations, as well as two-day and season passes and validations, must be purchased from license agents or DFG license sales offices prior to the shoot day. Daily hunting permits will not be issued at Type A Wildlife Areas without proof of a pre-paid one-day, two-day or season pass for the 2011-2012 waterfowl check station. Type B Wildlife Areas will still require proof of a season pass for issuance of a daily hunting permit.

All waterfowl hunting license items, including California duck validations, waterfowl hunting passes and reservation applications will be available through the Automated License Data System (ALDS) at approximately 1,500 license agents, DFG license sales offices and online. It is not feasible to have ALDS terminals installed at check stations.

Note: Passes purchased online, will be mailed to the customer. Allow 15 days for delivery of your pass. If you need a pass for use sooner than 15 days, please purchase a pass from a license agent or DFG license sales office.

To find a license agent near you, to purchase items online, or for more information on ALDS, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing. For more information on licenses, validations, reservations and passes for waterfowl hunting, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl/.

Opening Day at Sacramento Valley Refuges Delayed

Due to late rice harvest, opening day on Type-A state and federal hunting areas in the Sacramento Valley will be delayed one week to October 29, 2011. The affected areas are Yolo Bypass, Gray Lodge, Little Dry Creek, Llano Seco, Howard Slough, Sacramento NWR, Delevan NWR, Sutter NWR, Colusa NWR.

Waterfowl Reservation Drawings Go Paperless

The DFG has implemented a new reservation application system that will make it easier for hunters to apply for waterfowl hunting reservations. You can now submit reservation drawing applications at approximately 1,500 license agents, DFG license sales offices or online through the new ALDS. The new application system is much more convenient for users and does not require any paper applications. There are two ways you can apply through ALDS. You can submit a season long application or a multiple choice application.

Season-Long Reservation Application

Season-long reservation applications can be submitted at any license agent, DFG license sales office or online. The season-long reservation application may be used to apply for every available Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday shoot date. Hunters who use the season-long reservation application can quickly select the areas and dates they wish to apply for the entire season and pay in one transaction. In the past, hunters who used a season-long reservation form had to pay for the entire seasons worth of hunts they applied for, even if they applied after the drawing deadline for some hunts. One benefit of the new system is that the application calculates the number of remaining hunt dates and only charges you for those dates. Therefore, the season-long reservation application can now be used to apply for the remaining hunt dates at an area at any time of the season.

Multiple-Choice Reservation Application

Under ALDS, a new multiple-choice reservation application replaces the one-and five-choice reservation applications. This application is very flexible and easy to use and can also be submitted at license agents, DFG license sales offices or online.

The electronically submitted, multiple-choice application will allow a hunter to select hunt areas and choose any combination of hunt dates from a calendar of hunts. When using this option, a hunter can select a hunt area

and a calendar of available hunt dates will display. The hunter or the license agent can then click on the dates they wish to apply. Quick buttons are available to select or deselect All Hunt Days, All Saturdays, All Sundays or All Wednesdays. After hunt days have been selected, any individual hunt date can be quickly deselected by clicking on that day on the calendar. After the hunter has made all their selections, they can pay for all their hunt choices in one transaction.

Submit Multiple Choice Applications Online

Since hunters may submit a large number of individual hunt choices using the multiple-choice reservation application, submitting a multiple choice application at a license agent may be time consuming. The DFG suggests that it may be more convenient for hunters to submit multiple choice applications through the online sales application, so they can personally submit and review their hunt choices.

Important Information About Applying Online

If you have not purchased a hunting license through ALDS, then you must provide your proof of hunter education to a license agent or a DFG license sales office, so your ALDS customer profile can be updated to reflect that you meet the hunter education requirement. Alternatively, you may contact DFG via fax at (916) 419-7587 or e-mail LRB@dfg.ca.gov and provide your personal identification and proof of hunter education so your hunter education will be updated in ALDS.

How to Apply Online

If you have previously purchased a hunting license through ALDS, your hunter education record has been stored in ALDS and you can make hunting item purchases and apply for drawings online. Use your GO ID from your hunting license to retrieve your customer record at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols and proceed to the 2011 Hunting License Tab. Select the Multiple Choice Reservation Application or the Season-Long Reservation Application and make your hunt selections. After you have submitted payment and completed your transaction, you will be able to print a drawing receipt and review your hunt selections online.

You can submit more than one Season-Long Reservation Application or Multiple Choice Reservation Application as long as you do not submit duplicate hunt choices.

How to Apply At a License Agent or DFG License Sales Office

Make a list of the areas and dates you wish to apply for. Take your list and hunting license with you to the license agent. The license agent will scan the barcode on your license to retrieve your customer record. Tell the clerk which type of application you wish to submit: Season-

Long Reservation application or Multiple Choice Reservation Application. Give the clerk the list of hunts you wish to apply for or tell them your choices verbally. After the clerk has made your selections, verify that your receipt shows the correct number of hunt choices.

Applying For Disabled Accessible Hunting Sites

The season-long waterfowl reservation application and the multiple choice reservation application have separate versions that display available disabled accessible hunts. When applying online for disabled accessible hunting sites, be sure to select the application specifically for disabled accessible hunting sites. The disabled season long reservation application and the multi-choice reservation application are located in the same location as the non-disabled versions.

If applying for disabled accessible hunting sites at a DFG license sales office or a license agent, inform the clerk that you wish to apply for disabled hunts and at the end of the transaction, verify that the sales clerk has selected the correct disabled hunts.

Benefits for Hunters

- Applications may be submitted electronically at every license agent, DFG license sales offices and online.
- No more mailing applications, so hunters have more time to apply and applications will not be lost in the mail.
- Confirmation of application is immediate. Hunters receive a drawing receipt at the time of application.
- New multiple choice application is much more convenient than one and five choice applications it replaces.
- Season-long application calculates remaining hunt dates and hunters are not charged for hunt dates that have passed.
- No more late applications – because only available hunts are displayed on the application screen and applications are submitted immediately.
- No more invalid hunt codes – applications will no longer be rejected because the wrong hunt codes were written on the form.
- Can submit applications electronically until 11:59PM on the deadline date.
- Because there are no more paper applications to print and mail to hunters, applications can be made available more quickly after the Fish and Game Commission adopts waterfowl regulations in August.
- Hunters can log on to the Internet to view pending applications and drawing results.
- Reservation letters replace postcards. Letters allow us to provide more information with reservations and do not look like “junk mail”.

Basic Rules Remain the Same

- Reservations are issued by random drawings.
- Any person who possesses an annual hunting license may apply for reservations.
- The deadline to apply is 17 days before each hunt date (CCR, T-14, 551(j)) .
- You may apply for any combination of hunts, but duplicate hunt choices are prohibited. You may not submit more than one application for the same area on the same day.
- Fee - \$1.34 per hunt choice (\$1.25 + \$.05 agent handling fee and \$.04 ALDS license buyer surcharge).

Check Your Waterfowl Drawing Results Online

Log in to your user account using your GO ID to check your reservation drawing results at :

www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/

Reservation drawing results will be available at least seven days before the hunt day.

Duplicate Hunt Choices

You may submit only one application for each hunt. You may submit as many hunt choices as you like as long as you do not submit more than one hunt choice for the same area on the same day. Duplicate hunt choices will be disqualified (CCR, T-14, 551(j)).

The drawing system will not stop hunters from submitting duplicate hunt choices; however, before each drawing is performed, duplicate hunt choices are disqualified (one of the duplicates, not both). The system will provide a method for hunters to log in online and review their hunt choices. This will help hunters avoid applying for duplicate hunt choices.

Federal Duck Stamps

Federal Duck stamps must be signed across the face of the stamp and are available from post offices and some license agents. You may affix your Federal Duck Stamp to the back of your ALDS issued hunting license or you may carry it separately from your hunting license.

Validations Replace Stamps In ALDS

The California Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp have been replaced by validations that are printed on your license. The validation authorizes you to hunt certain species just as the stamps previously did. Collectible stamps are available for any person who purchases a California Duck Validation or an Upland Game Bird Validation. For information on how to claim your free collectible stamps, visit the DFG's website at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/collectorstamps.

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation

If you hunt any of the following migratory game birds, you must complete the HIP Survey and possess the HIP Validation while in the field: ducks, geese, coots, dove, brant, snipe, gallinules, and band-tailed pigeon.

Wildlife Area Holiday Schedule

All Type A and Type B wildlife areas and refuges will be closed for hunting on Christmas Day, except for Island Slough and Gold Hills Units of Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. All Type A and Type B wildlife areas and refuges will be open for hunting on New Year's Day.

Flood Closure Information

It is common for waterfowl hunting areas to close periodically due to safety concerns caused by flooding. Areas that most commonly experience flood closures are: Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Delevan National Wildlife Refuge, Little Dry Creek and Howard Slough. Reservations for State-operated hunting areas that are closed due to flooding will not be accepted at other hunting areas. Refunds will not be issued for applications submitted to areas that are closed or if reservations are not available. You can check to see if any State-operated hunting areas are closed on the DFG's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl/areas.html.

Baldwin Lake Low

Baldwin Lake may not be open for hunting this season. At the time of this newsletter, the lake level is dry and the lake is not expected to have enough water to be open for hunting. For Baldwin Lake hunting information, call (909) 484-0167.

Telephone Sales (available September 12)

Most hunting and sport fishing license items, including waterfowl hunting items such as validations, passes, and season-long reservation applications, may be purchased via telephone from Active Network's telephone license sales line at (800) 565-1458. Multiple choice reservation applications may not be submitted via telephone sales. The DFG suggests that you submit multiple choice reservation applications online. To purchase items via telephone, you must have hunter education on file in the ALDS. Items purchased by telephone sales will be delivered by mail within 15 days of purchase.

Youth and Junior Hunts (*Adult supervision required*)

Hunt	Location and Details	Hunt Date(s)	How to Apply
Northeastern Zone Preseason Youth Hunt	On these dates, the Northeastern Zone is open to waterfowl hunters age 15 or under, except for Federal refuges. State wildlife areas in the zone are open for youth hunters.	09/24/2011 09/25/2011	Contact the wildlife area you wish to hunt for details.
Sacramento NWR Special Junior Hunt	On this day all blinds at Sacramento NWR are reserved for junior hunters. Hunters must have a junior hunting license to apply.	12/10/2011	Use a post card to apply directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For information visit: www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges
Delevan NWR Special Junior Hunt	On this day all blinds at Delevan NWR are reserved for junior hunters. Hunters must have a junior hunting license to apply.	12/17/2011	Use a post card to apply directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For information visit: www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges
Post Season Youth Waterfowl Hunt	On these dates, the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of the State Zones are open to waterfowl hunters age 15 or under. Most wildlife areas are open for youth hunters on these dates.	02/04/2012 02/05/2012	To apply for wildlife areas and refuges, submit a season-long application or a multiple choice application for these dates online, at a license agent or a DFG license sales office.

State-Operated Hunting Areas

Ash Creek Wildlife Area (530) 294-5824
 Baldwin Lake (909) 484-0167
 Butte Valley Wildlife Area (530) 398-4627
 Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (530) 934-2801
 Delevan National Wildlife Refuge (530) 934-2801
 Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (530) 846-7500
 Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (707) 425-3828
 Honey Lake Wildlife Area (530) 254-6644
 Imperial Wildlife Area (760) 359-0577
 Kern National Wildlife Refuge (661) 725-2767
 Los Banos Wildlife Area (209) 826-0463
 Mendota Wildlife Area (559) 655-4645
 Merced National Wildlife Refuge
 (DFG) (209) 826-0463
 (USFWS) (209) 826-3508

North Grasslands Wildlife Area (209) 826-0463
 Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (530) 934-2801
 San Jacinto Wildlife Area (951) 928-0580
 San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
 (DFG) (209) 826-0463
 (USFWS) (209) 826-3508
 Shasta Valley Wildlife Area (530) 459-3926
 Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge .. (916) 775-4421
 Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (530) 934-2801
 Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (530) 982-2169
 Volta Wildlife Area (209) 826-0463
 Willow Creek Wildlife Area (530) 254-6644
 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (530) 757-2461

Apply Directly to Stone Lakes NWR for Reservations

For the 2011/2012 waterfowl season, the USFWS will draw reservations for all hunts at Stone Lake NWR. For more information on how to apply for reservations to hunt at Stone Lakes NWR, visit the Stone Lakes web page at: www.fws.gov/stonelakes/

2010/2011 Drawing Statistics

The enclosed table contains 2010/2011 waterfowl reservation drawing statistics. Please review this information. It may assist you in deciding where to apply. If you have any questions about the waterfowl reservation system, visit the DFG's web site at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl