



2012 WATERFOWL HUNTING NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

Waterfowl season is rapidly approaching and now is the time to prepare for opening day. Beginning September 1, 2012, hunters can submit reservation applications for state-operated wildlife areas through the Automated License Data System (ALDS). This newsletter contains information that will assist you in applying for reservations and provide important information for waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunting regulation booklets will be available in September. Season summaries, the Early Season Upland Game Bird Hunting Regulation Flyer 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 wildlife areas no longer sell permits, passes, or any license items on-site. Hunters must make all such purchases in advance. Validations, one-day, two-day and season passes 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 2012-2013 waterfowl hunting season. 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 are available through ALDS at license agents, DFG license sales offices and online. It is not feasible to have ALDS terminals installed at check stations.

Important: *Passes purchased online, will be mailed to the customer. Please 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 DFG license sales office or 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.

SUTTER NWR WATER ISSUES

The Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) will open for hunting in 2012 once 50% of the hunt area is fully flooded. Given current water availability issues we expect this to be accomplished by mid-November. Therefore, the first hunt day reservations can be submitted for Sutter NWR is Nov 17. Depending on water availability and the rate of flood up, an earlier opening date may be possible. The Refuge will be utilizing an additional pump to help reach this goal. The refuge continues to work with the Department of Water Resources to maximize water availability under current conditions. The Refuge is also working with the Bureau of Reclamation to fulfill long-term water delivery obligations mandated under Central Valley Improvement Act (CVPIA) project. Sutter NWR is the only refuge left

in the Sacramento NWR Complex that does not receive CVPIA water.

WATERFOWL RESERVATION DRAWINGS

The DFG's reservation application system makes 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 ALDS. The application system is 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.

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.

SEASON-LONG RESERVATION APPLICATION

The Season-Long Reservation Application may be used to apply for every available Saturday, Sunday and/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. One benefit of the 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 be used to apply for the remaining hunt dates at an area at any time of the season.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE RESERVATION APPLICATION

The Multiple-Choice Reservation Application is very flexible and easy to use. It allows 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, 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 purchase hunting items 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 2012 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.

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 before you leave the store or office.

TELEPHONE SALES

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. Please allow 15 days for items purchased by telephone.

APPLYING FOR DISABLED ACCESSIBLE HUNTING SITES

The Season-Long 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 Multiple-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.

RESERVATIONS UNDER ALDS

- Reservations are issued by random drawings.
- Any person who possesses an annual hunting license may apply for reservations.
- Fee - \$1.34 per hunt choice (\$1.25 + \$.05 agent handling fee and \$.04 ALDS application fee).
- Applications are paperless. Hunters have more time and options to apply. Applications will not be lost in the mail.
- The deadline to apply is 17 days before each hunt date (CCR, T-14, 551(j)).
- Applications can be submitted electronically until 11:59PM on the deadline date.
- 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. (CCR, T-14, 551(j)).
- Multiple choice application is much more convenient than one and five choice applications it replaces.
- 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 a hunter entered the wrong hunt codes.
- Confirmation of application is immediate. Hunters receive a drawing receipt at the time of application.
- Hunters can log on to the Internet to view pending applications and drawing results.
- Reservation letters allow us to provide area-specific information.

WATERFOWL DRAWING RESULTS ONLINE

Hunters who are drawn for a reservation will receive a reservation letter approximately a week before the hunt. Reservation drawing results are also available online at least seven days before the hunt day. Log in to the Online License Service using your last name, date of birth and GO ID to check your reservation drawing results at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols.

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 does 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 provides a method for hunters to log in online and review their hunt choices. This helps 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 hunting license or you may carry it separately from your hunting license.

DUCK AND UPLAND GAME BIRD VALIDATIONS

The California Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp have been replaced by validations that are printed on your hunting license. You must possess the validations to hunt certain species. Collectible stamps are available for any person who purchases a California Duck Validation or an Upland Game Bird Validation. Information on how to claim your free collectible stamps is printed on your validation and is available on the DFG's web site 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.

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 wildlife 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 wildlife 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.

STONE LAKES NWR - APPLY DIRECTLY TO STONE LAKES FOR RESERVATIONS

For the 2012/2013 waterfowl season, the USFWS will draw reservations for all hunts at Stone Lake NWR. For information on how to apply for reservations to hunt at Stone Lakes NWR, visit the Stone Lakes web page at: www.fws.gov/stonelakes/.

VIOLATION OF RULES OF CONDUCT

Thousands of outdoor enthusiasts visit California's State-operated wildlife and ecological areas (Lands) each year. Regulations and rules for these Lands have been established to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for all outdoor visitors, while protecting wildlife and their habitats. By following regulations, practicing good outdoor ethics, and respecting others; a positive experience will be remembered and shared by all.

Employees of the DFG are authorized to refuse entry or issuance of entry permits, revoke permits and/or eject any visitor from DFG Lands for violation of any rules, drug or alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, or for any reason when it appears that the general safety or welfare of the property or persons thereon is affected. The decision of the DFG employee assigned management or enforcement responsibilities for the area in such respect shall be final.

Failure to comply with area regulations is a violation and may result in any or all of the following:

- Denial of permission to enter DFG operated and/or managed lands;
- Revocation of any permit already issued;
- Ejection from the area for up to one calendar year from the date of discovery; and
- Citation or arrest under the applicable provisions of the Fish and Game Code or Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

2011/2012 DRAWING STATISTICS

The enclosed table contains 2011/2012 waterfowl reservation drawing statistics. Please review this information. It may assist you in deciding where to apply. Statistics for individual hunts are available online at the web address below. If you have any questions about the waterfowl reservation system, visit the DFG's web site at: www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl

YOUTH AND JUNIOR HUNTS (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)

Hunt	Locations and Details	Hunt Dates	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.	09/22/2012 09/23/2012	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.	12/08/2012	Use a post card to apply directly to the USFWS. 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.	12/15/2012	Use a post card to apply directly to the USFWS. For information visit: www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges
Post Season Youth Waterfowl Hunt	On these dates, the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, Colorado River 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.	02/02/2013 02/03/2013	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	North Grasslands Wildlife Area.....	(209) 826-0463
Baldwin Lake	(909) 484-0167	Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801
Butte Valley Wildlife Area	(530) 398-4627	San Jacinto Wildlife Area.....	(951) 928-0580
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	San Luis National Wildlife Refuge	
Delevan National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	(DFG)	(209) 826-0463
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area.....	(530) 846-7500	(USFWS)	(209) 826-3508
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	(707) 425-3828	Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	(530) 459-3926
Honey Lake Wildlife Area	(530) 254-6644	Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge .	(916) 775-4421
Imperial Wildlife Area.....	(760) 359-0577	Sutter National Wildlife Refuge.....	(530) 934-2801
Kern National Wildlife Refuge.....	(661) 725-2767	Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area	(530) 982-2169
Los Banos Wildlife Area.....	(209) 826-0463	Volta Wildlife Area	(209) 826-0463
Mendota Wildlife Area.....	(559) 655-4645	Willow Creek Wildlife Area.....	(530) 254-6644
Merced National Wildlife Refuge		Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.....	(530) 757-2461
(DFG)	(209) 826-0463		
(USFWS)	(209) 826-3508		

FOLLOW THE HUNT PROGRAM ON TWITTER

Get updates on waterfowl hunting on public hunt areas via Twitter at www.dfg.ca.gov/Connect/. This season the DFG will post updates on Twitter when information that is important to waterfowl hunters is available. Topics will include reservation applications, youth and junior hunting opportunities, flood closure updates and general waterfowl hunting information.

RESERVATION INFORMATION CHART

A waterfowl reservation information chart is available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl. The chart includes information such as: the number of hunters per

reservation, the time the check station opens, the time the reservation expires and lottery/first-come first-served information.

SPECIAL HUNTS PROGRAM

Apply for free special hunting opportunities online using the Department's special hunts drawing program at: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/DFGSpecialHunts>. Many apprentice, family and special opportunity hunts are available for dove, pheasant, turkey, quail and other species. Create an account and log in to view and apply for available hunting opportunities. Hunters cannot apply for the hunts that are offered through the Special Hunts Program via ALDS.