



Waterfowl season is rapidly approaching and now is the time to prepare for opening day. Beginning September 1, 2019, hunters can purchase wildlife area passes, and submit reservation applications for State-operated wildlife areas. This newsletter contains important information for waterfowl hunters that will assist you in applying for reservations. Waterfowl hunting regulation booklets will be available in September. Season summaries and complete regulations are available on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) web site at wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.

NEW WATERFOWL GENERAL SEASON CLOSING DATE

The Fish and Game Commission adopted Friday, January 31 as the closing date for general waterfowl seasons in the Balance of State (except for general geese in this zone), Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California zones. State-operated wildlife areas will be open for hunting on waterfowl shooting days, including Wednesday, January 29, 2020. A summary of 2019-2020 waterfowl season dates is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl.

NEW NONLEAD AMMUNITION REQUIRED STATEWIDE

As of July 1, 2019, certified nonlead ammunition is required when taking any wildlife with a firearm anywhere in California. The nonlead ammunition requirement includes hunting on public land, private property, and licensed game bird clubs. In addition, it is unlawful to possess lead ammunition and a firearm capable of firing the ammunition while taking or attempting to take wildlife anywhere in California. If you plan to hunt this hunting season, consider purchasing nonlead ammunition in advance. More information about nonlead ammunition requirements is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting.

NEW RESERVATION START AND EXPIRATION TIME FOR DELEVAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Beginning in the 2019 waterfowl season, the Delevan National Wildlife Refuge check station will begin processing reservations 2.5 hours before shoot time and reservations will expire 1.5 hours before shoot time.

NEW PHASE-OUT OF PRINTED REGULATIONS BOOKS

As part of a broader effort by CDFW to go paperless, CDFW is in the process of transitioning to online regulations books and will be decreasing the number of printed books shipped to license agents and CDFW offices in 2019 and beyond. The cost to print and ship regulations books is significant, and money saved will be put toward fish and wildlife conservation. This year's booklets will also be returning to the smaller, mostly black-and-white format.

DISABLED VETERAN HUNT AT COLUSA

On Saturday January 4, 2020, all assigned ponds and blinds at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge will be reserved for disabled veterans. Hunt details and application instructions are available on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex website at www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting.html.

IMPORTANT HUNTER CHECKLIST

Check stations do not sell any license items, permits, or passes. Hunters must purchase any needed license, passes, and validations from a CDFW license sales office, a license agent, or online.

Before going to a wildlife area to hunt waterfowl, verify that the members of your hunting party have these items:

- ❖ **California Hunting License**
- ❖ **Prepaid Wildlife Area Hunting Pass*** (not required for junior hunters)
 - (Type A One-Day, Two-Day, or Season Pass for Type A Areas), OR
 - (Type A or B Season Pass for Northeastern Zone Type B Areas)
- ❖ **Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation**
- ❖ **California Duck Validation** (not required for junior hunters)
- ❖ **Federal Duck Stamp** (required for all hunters 16 years of age or older)

*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 CDFW license sales office.

CDFW OFFICES DO NOT ACCEPT CASH

Only checks, money orders, and any debit or credit cards with the Visa or Mastercard logo are accepted at CDFW license sales offices.

STAY CONNECTED TO CDFW

Having your email address and mobile number will enable the CDFW to send you information you can use, such as license renewal and courtesy report card deadline reminders, and California fishing and hunting information. When purchasing a license from a license agent, or when you log in to www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales, update your communication preferences and provide your email address and mobile number.

EMAIL RESERVATION NOTIFICATIONS

CDFW will send email notifications to hunters when they are drawn for a reservation. To receive email notifications, your customer preferences must be set to receive license reminder emails.

Log in to update your customer preferences at www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales. Do not rely solely on email reminders for your drawing results, as spam filters or other problems may restrict email notifications. CDFW will continue to mail reservation letters to hunters who are successful in the drawing.

TURN IN POACHERS AND POLLUTERS

Call in or text anonymous tips (including photos) to the CalTIP program. For in-progress violations, call 1-888-334-CalTIP (1-888-334-2258).

For non-urgent reports, send texts to 847411: "CALTIP + [your message]."



WILDLIFE AREA HUNTING PASS REQUIREMENTS

On Type A and Type B wildlife areas, adult hunters must possess a valid wildlife area hunting pass. Any person hunting with a junior hunting license is exempt from wildlife area hunting pass requirements.

Type A Wildlife Areas - one of the following Type A Wildlife Area Season or Day Passes is required:

- Type A One-Day Pass - valid for one day on a Type A Wildlife Area only.
- Type A Two-Day Pass - valid for two days or two people for one day on Type A Wildlife Areas only.
- Type A Season Pass - valid for the entire season on all Type A and B Wildlife Areas.

Type B Wildlife Areas - you must possess one of the season passes below. One and Two-Day Day Passes are not accepted at Type B Wildlife Areas.

- Type A Season Pass - valid for the entire season on all Type A and B Wildlife Areas.
- Type B Season Pass - valid for the entire season on Type B Wildlife Areas only.

WATERFOWL RESERVATION DRAWING BASICS

The CDFW's waterfowl reservation application system makes it easy for hunters to apply for reservations. Reservation drawing applications can be submitted anywhere California hunting licenses are sold and online at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales.

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.

- Reservations are issued by random drawings.
- Any person who possesses an annual hunting license may apply for reservations.
- Fee: \$1.34 per hunt choice.
- Deadline to apply is 17 days before each hunt date.
- Applications can be submitted electronically until 11:59 PM on the deadline date.
- Confirmation of application is immediate. Hunters receive a drawing receipt at the time of application.
- Duplicate hunt choices will be disqualified. One duplicate choice is disqualified, not both.
- View your pending applications and drawing results at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales.
- Reservation letters are mailed to applicants who are drawn. Reservation letters can be reprinted at home via the link from your online drawing results.
- When hunters are drawn for a reservation, email notifications are sent providing a link to check your drawing results. To receive email notifications, your customer preferences must be set to receive license reminder emails.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Applying online is convenient. The CDFW encourages hunters to submit their reservation applications at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales. Personally selecting and verifying your hunt choices online will allow you to confirm your applications are error-free.

HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

If your proof of hunter education has been stored to your customer record, you can purchase hunting items and apply for waterfowl reservation drawings online. Use your GO ID from your hunting license to retrieve your customer record at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales, and proceed to the 2019 Hunting 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 CDFW 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 a license agent. The license agent will scan the barcode on your license to retrieve your customer record. Tell the clerk if you wish to submit a season-long reservation application or a multiple-choice reservation application. Give the clerk the list of hunts you wish to apply for or tell them your choices verbally. Be sure to verify that your drawing receipt shows the correct hunt choices before leaving.

SEASON-LONG RESERVATION APPLICATION

The season-long reservation application may be used to apply for every available Saturday, Sunday and/or Wednesday hunt date. You can quickly select the areas and days of the week for which you wish to apply and pay in one transaction. The season-long reservation 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 during any time of the season.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE RESERVATION APPLICATION

The multiple-choice reservation application allows a hunter to select hunt areas and choose any combination of hunt dates from a calendar of hunts. When using this option, the hunter or the license agent can click on the dates they wish to apply for a selected area. Quick selection 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.

APPLYING FOR DISABLED ACCESSIBLE HUNTING SITES

When applying online for disabled accessible hunting sites, be sure to select the application specifically for disabled accessible hunting sites. The mobility impaired 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 CDFW license sales office or a license agent, inform the clerk that you wish to apply for disabled accessible hunts. At the end of the transaction, look at your drawing receipt and verify that the clerk selected the correct disabled accessible hunts.

WATERFOWL DRAWING RESULTS ONLINE

Hunters who are drawn for a reservation will receive a reservation letter approximately one week before the hunt. Reservation drawing results are also available online at www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales. If you are drawn for a reservation, a link to a PDF file of your reservation letter will be displayed on your reservation drawing results page. This feature allows hunters to reprint reservation letters that have been lost or were not received.

SEASON HUNTING PASS PRINTS ON HUNTING LICENSE

If you purchase your season hunting pass in the same transaction as your hunting license, it will print directly on your hunting license. If you purchase your season pass separately from your hunting license, the season pass will print on a separate document, and you must carry both documents with you while hunting.

DUCK AND UPLAND GAME BIRD VALIDATIONS

You must possess a California Duck Validation to hunt waterfowl. An Upland Game Bird Validation is required to hunt upland game birds. Collectible stamps are available for any person who purchases a California Duck Validation or an Upland Game Bird Validation. Collectible stamps must be claimed by June 30 of each license year. Information on how to obtain your free collectible stamps is printed on your validation and is available at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/collector-stamps.

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.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS AND E-STAMPS

A Federal Duck Stamp is required for any person who is 16 years of age or older hunting waterfowl. Federal Duck stamps must be signed across the face of the stamp and are available from post offices, some license agents, and online at www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php. The Federal Duck Stamp may be affixed to the back of your hunting license or carried separately.

Hunters who purchased an Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) online will receive an E-Stamp certificate which is valid as a Federal Duck Stamp for up to 45 days from the purchase date. During this time, hunters must have their E-Stamp certificate in their possession while hunting waterfowl.

After 45 days from the date of purchase or once a hunter receives their physical Federal Duck Stamp in the mail, their E-Stamp certificate will no longer be valid for use to hunt waterfowl. Hunters must carry their current, signed Federal Duck Stamp in order to continue hunting waterfowl.

SPECIAL HUNT DRAWING APPLICATIONS

Applications for wild upland bird special hunts are available everywhere California hunting licenses are sold. You can also apply online at www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales. Hunt applications for dove, quail, chukar, pheasant, and turkey are available for purchase approximately 51 days prior to the season opener for each species. The application fee is \$2.42. The deadline to apply is 21 days before the first hunt for that species. More information is available under the special hunts tab at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds/Hunts.

RESERVATION INFORMATION CHART

Waterfowl reservation information for Type A Wildlife Areas is available at nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=70431&inline. The chart includes information such as the number of hunters allowed per reservation, the time the check stations open, the time reservations expire, lottery procedures, and first-come, first-served procedures.

FLOOD CLOSURE INFORMATION

It is common for waterfowl hunting areas to close periodically due to safety concerns caused by flooding. You can check to see if any State-operated wildlife areas are closed at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Area-Alerts. 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 (Section 550.5(a)(1)(A), Title 14, of California Code of Regulations).

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 CDFW are authorized to refuse entry or issuance of entry permits, revoke permits and/or eject any visitor from CDFW 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 CDFW employee assigned management or enforcement responsibilities for the area in such respect shall be final.

Pursuant to Section 550(c)(3), Title 14, of California Code of Regulations, failure to comply with area regulations is a violation and may result in any or all of the following:

- Denial of permission to enter CDFW 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
- Citation or arrest under the applicable provisions of the Fish and Game Code or Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE-OPERATED HUNTING AREAS

Wildlife Area	Phone Number	Email Address
Ash Creek Wildlife Area	(530) 294-5824	
Baldwin Lake	(909) 484-0167	
Butte Valley Wildlife Area	(530) 459-3926	
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov
Delevan National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	(530) 846-7500	GLWLA@wildlife.ca.gov
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	(707) 425-3828	GrizzlyIsland@wildlife.ca.gov
Honey Lake Wildlife Area	(530) 254-6644	HoneyLake@wildlife.ca.gov
Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	(760) 359-0577	
Kern National Wildlife Refuge	(661) 725-2767	miguel_jimenez@fws.gov
Los Banos Wildlife Area	(209) 826-0463	
Mendota Wildlife Area	(559) 655-4645	Mendota@wildlife.ca.gov
Merced National Wildlife Refuge	(209) 826-3508	jack_sparks@fws.gov
North Grasslands Wildlife Area (Salt Slough, Gadwall, China Island Units)	(209) 827-6586	
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov
San Jacinto Wildlife Area	(951) 928-0580	
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Kesterson, Blue Goose, Freitas, Bear Creek Units)	(209) 826-3508 USFWS	jack_sparks@fws.gov
Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	(530) 459-3926	
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge	(916) 775-4421	
Sutter National Wildlife Refuge	(530) 934-2801	sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (Little Dry Creek, Howard Slough, Llano Seco Units)	(530) 982-2169	UpperButte@wildlife.ca.gov
Volta Wildlife Area	(209) 826-0463	
Willow Creek Wildlife Area	(530) 254-6644	HoneyLake@wildlife.ca.gov
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	(530) 757-2461	

YOUTH AND JUNIOR HUNTS (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)

Hunt	Locations and Details	Hunt Dates	How to Apply
Northeastern Zone Preseason Youth Waterfowl Hunt	On these dates, the Northeastern Zone is open to waterfowl hunters 17 years of age or less. Federal refuges and State wildlife areas in the Northeastern Zone (except Willow Creek) are open for youth hunters.	09/21/2019 09/22/2019	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 valid junior hunting license to apply.	12/14/2019	Use a post card to apply directly to the USFWS. For additional information visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting/juniorhunts.html .
Delevan NWR Special Junior Hunt	On this day, all blinds at Delevan NWR are reserved for junior hunters. Hunters must have a valid junior hunting license to apply.	12/07/2019	Use a post card to apply directly to the USFWS. For additional information visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting/juniorhunts.html .
Colorado River Zone Post Season Youth Waterfowl Hunt	On these dates, the Colorado River Zone is open to waterfowl hunters age 17 or under.	02/01/2020 02/02/2020	Contact the wildlife area you wish to hunt for details.
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 17 or under. Most wildlife areas are open for youth hunters on these dates.	02/08/2020 02/09/2020	Use a season-long reservation application or a multiple-choice reservation application to apply for these dates.