



2020 WATERFOWL HUNTING NEWSLETTER

Waterfowl season is rapidly approaching and now is the time to prepare for opening day. Beginning September 1, 2020, 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) website at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WILDLIFE AREA AND REFUGE OPERATIONS DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

CDFW understands that spending time in the outdoors is beneficial to our overall health and wellness. As a result, CDFW plans to operate wildlife areas and refuges to provide recreational opportunities for the upcoming waterfowl season while keeping CDFW staff and the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDFW intends to keep areas open as long as visitors implement recommended health and safety practices. For health and safety information and changes made to wildlife area and refuge operations for the 2020 hunting season, please visit CDFW's informational web page: wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/COVID-19. Please remember to check this informational page for current information, as CDFW continues to monitor and maintain consistency with the latest state and local guidelines and directives in its operation of wildlife areas and refuges.

IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENTS TO CHECK-IN TIMES DUE TO COVID-19 GUIDELINES

CDFW will establish controls for check station areas and parking lots to increase physical distancing and minimize contact among hunters and staff. These controls may result in slower hunter processing times. To allow more time for hunter processing, check-in for hunters holding reservations, and processing for lottery or first-come, first-served (FCFS) opportunities may begin earlier than usual. Furthermore, lottery and FCFS check-ins may begin at a set time rather than immediately after reservation holders are checked in. For more information about controls and check-in times, please visit wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/COVID-19.

IMPORTANT TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CDFW LICENSE SALES OFFICES DUE TO COVID-19

CDFW has temporarily closed its high public use offices, including license counters, to help slow the spread of COVID-19. ***Prior to visiting a CDFW license sales office, please contact the regional headquarters office to determine if that CDFW license sales office is open.*** A list of CDFW regional headquarters offices is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Regions.

NEW VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY HUNT DAYS

The Fish and Game Commission recently adopted regulations which allocate two days to veterans and active military personnel for waterfowl hunting in the Northeastern, Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin, and Southern California zones. Veterans (as defined in Section 101 of Title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than training), may participate in this special hunt. Any person participating in this special hunt must possess and present upon demand verification of eligibility to participate. Acceptable verification includes Veteran's ID Card, Military ID Card for active duty, or a State-issued driver's license or Identification Card with Veteran Designation. Most wildlife areas are open for Veteran and Active Military hunters on these dates.

NEW JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSE

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3031, a resident or nonresident must be 15 years of age or younger on July 1, 2020 to purchase a 2020-2021 Junior Hunting License. Youths under age



18 can still participate in the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days that are held pre and post waterfowl season.

DISABLED VETERAN HUNT AT COLUSA NWR

On Saturday, January 2, 2021, 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 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 licenses, passes, and validations from 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)

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.

PHASE-OUT OF PRINTED REGULATIONS BOOKS

As part of the CDFW effort to go electronic, CDFW is in the process of transitioning to online regulations booklets. A reduced number of printed materials will be shipped to license agents and CDFW offices in 2020. The cost to print and ship booklets is significant, and money saved will be put toward fish and wildlife conservation. Regulations

booklets can be downloaded at wildlife.ca.gov/regulations. Due to the temporary closure of all CDFW license sales offices, the majority of printed regulations booklets will be shipped to license agents, wildlife areas, and refuges.

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.

STAY CONNECTED TO CDFW

Providing CDFW with your email address and mobile phone number will enable 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 phone 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.wildlifelicence.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.wildlifelicence.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.wildlifelicence.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.wildlifelicence.com/InternetSales, and proceed to the 2020 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

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.

MILITARY ONLY RESERVATION APPLICATION

The military only reservation application may be used to apply for military only hunts reserved for veterans and active military personnel. Hunters

participating in these hunts must possess and present upon demand verification of eligibility to participate in these hunts. Acceptable verification includes Veteran's ID Card, Military ID Card for active duty, or a State-issued driver's license or Identification Card with Veteran Designation. When using this option, the hunter or the license agent can select one or both hunting days for each participating area.

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, multiple-choice reservation application, and military only reservation application are located in the same location as the non-disabled versions.

If applying for disabled accessible hunting sites at 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.

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, hunters must have a signed Federal Duck Stamp in their immediate possession to hunt 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 TABLE

Waterfowl reservation information for Type A wildlife areas is available in the Waterfowl Reservation Information table (nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=70431&inline). The table includes the number of

hunters allowed per reservation, reservation processing (i.e. check-in) and expiration times, and lottery and first-come, first-served (i.e. refill) procedures. ***Please continue to check this table throughout the season for any changes to check-in times.***

FLOOD CLOSURE INFORMATION

It is common for waterfowl hunting areas to close periodically due to safety concerns caused by flooding.

Visit wildlife.ca.gov/Closures to see if any State-operated wildlife areas are closed. 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.

CDFW employees 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 the 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

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTS (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)

To participate in any Youth Waterfowl Hunts, a youth must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older. Federal regulations require that hunters participating in any Youth Waterfowl Hunts must be 17 years of age or younger.

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 younger. Federal refuges and State wildlife areas in the Northeastern Zone (except Willow Creek) are open for youth hunters.	09/19/2020 09/20/2020	Contact the wildlife area you wish to hunt for details.
Colorado River Zone Post Season Youth Waterfowl Hunt	On these dates, the Colorado River Zone is open to waterfowl hunters age 17 or under.	02/06/2021 02/07/2021	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.	02/06/2021 02/07/2021	Use a season-long reservation application or a multiple-choice reservation application to apply for these dates.

JUNIOR WATERFOWL HUNTS (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)

To participate in any Junior Waterfowl Hunts, a hunter must possess a valid junior hunting license **and** must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.

Hunt	Locations and Details	Hunt Dates	How to Apply
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.	12/12/2020	Use a postcard to apply directly to the USFWS. For additional information visit www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting/juniorhunts.html .



Hunt	Locations and Details	Hunt Dates	How to Apply
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.	12/19/2020	Use a postcard to apply directly to the USFWS. For additional information visit www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting/juniorhunts.html .

VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL HUNTS (VERIFICATION REQUIRED)

Veterans (as defined in Section 101 of Title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty (other than training), may participate. Any person participating in these hunts must possess and present upon demand verification of eligibility. Acceptable verification includes: Veteran’s ID Card, or Military ID Card for active duty, or a State-issued driver’s license or Identification Card with Veteran Designation.

Hunt	Locations and Details	Hunt Dates	How to Apply
Northeastern Zone	On these dates, most wildlife areas in the Northeastern Zone are open for Veteran and Active Military hunters. Goose hunting in this zone is not permitted during these days.	01/16/2021 01/17/2021	Please contact the wildlife area you wish to hunt for details.
Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones	On these dates, most wildlife areas in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones are open for Veteran and Active Military hunters. Goose hunting in the Balance of State Zone is not permitted during these days.	02/13/2021 02/14/2021	Use a military only reservation application to apply for these dates for areas where reservations will be drawn. Please contact the wildlife area you wish to hunt for additional hunt details.

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	



Wildlife Area	Phone Number	Email Address
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	