



Waterfowl season is rapidly approaching and now is the time to prepare for opening day. Beginning September 1, 2017, 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 October. 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 E-MAIL RESERVATION NOTIFICATIONS

Beginning this season, CDFW will send email notifications to hunters when they are drawn for a reservation. The email will provide a link to check your drawing results. 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.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales. Do not rely solely on email reminders for your drawing results, as spam filters or other problems may restrict email notification. CDFW will continue to mail reservation letters to hunters who are successful in the drawing.

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 the Online License Service, update your communication preferences and provide your email address and mobile number.

California Government Code, Section 11015.5, prohibits the CDFW from using your personal information for any purpose other than the purpose specified at the time the data is collected.

NEW DISABLED VETERAN HUNT AT COLUSA

On Saturday January 6, 2018, all assigned ponds and blinds at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge will be reserved for disabled veterans. Hunt details and application instructions have not been finalized at this time. When more information is available it will be posted on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex website at www.fws.gov/refuge/sacramento.

NEW SPECIAL HUNT DRAWING APPLICATIONS

Beginning this season, applications for wild upland bird special hunts will be available everywhere California hunting licenses are sold. You can apply using the Online License Service at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales. Hunts for dove, quail, chukar, pheasant, and turkey will be available. 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.

NEW CDFW OFFICES NO LONGER ACCEPT CASH

As of January 1, 2017, CDFW license sales offices no longer accept cash.

CDFW LANDS REQUIRE NONLEAD AMMUNITION

Certified nonlead ammunition is required for all hunting with firearms on CDFW lands, including wildlife areas and ecological reserves. If you plan to hunt on any CDFW lands during the 2017-18 hunting season, consider purchasing nonlead ammunition in advance. More information about nonlead ammunition requirements is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting.

HUNTER CHECKLIST

IMPORTANT: 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 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.

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 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 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-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. You can submit reservation drawing applications anywhere California hunting licenses are sold.

You can submit more than one season-long reservation application or multiple-choice reservation applications 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.wildlifelicense.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.

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 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, 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.

SUBMIT MULTIPLE-CHOICE APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Applying online is convenient. The CDFW encourages hunters to submit multiple-choice applications through the [Online License Service](#). 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.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales and proceed to the 2017 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 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 number of hunt choices before leaving.

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 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 sales clerk has 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 least seven days before the hunt day. Check your reservation drawing results 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.

RESERVATION INFORMATION CHART

Waterfowl reservation information for Type-A Wildlife Areas is available at <https://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. The following areas frequently experience flood closures: Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Delevan National Wildlife Refuge, Little Dry Creek, and Howard Slough. 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 551(a)(1)(A), Title 14, of California Code of Regulations).

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. Information on how to obtain your free collectible stamps is printed on your validation and is available at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/collector-stamps.

FEDERAL DUCK 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 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.

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.

SEASON PASS PRINTS ON HUNTING LICENSE

If you purchase your season pass in the same transaction as your hunting license, it will print directly on your hunting license. This reduces the number of documents you must carry and present to the check station. 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.

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.

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	nick_stanley@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.	09/23/2017 09/24/2017	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.	12/02/2017	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.	12/09/2017	Use a post card to apply directly to the USFWS. For additional information visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/visit/hunting/juniorhunts.html .
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 17 or under. Most wildlife areas are open for youth hunters on these dates.	02/03/2018 02/04/2018	Use a season-long reservation application or a multiple-choice reservation application to apply for these dates.