Salt Ponds – Refuge Permit Required

A Refuge Permit is required to hunt, place a boat, maintain hunt blinds, and improve existing hunt blinds in the salt ponds listed below. Hunting is only allowed on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays on these ponds. Hunt blinds are only accessible by boat. During the two weekends before the hunting season begins, hunters may moor a boat at a designated site. These boats are to stay in the pond for the entire season. Launching into creeks and sloughs is prohibited from refuge levees. Boats must be removed within two weeks following the close of the hunt season. Only non-motorized, electric, or 4-stroke gasoline boats are permitted in these ponds.

1. **Ponds AB1, A2E, AB2, A3N, and A3W.** These ponds are located on the west end of the bay between Stevens Creek and Guadalupe Slough. Access to Ponds AB1 and A2E is from the Crittenden Lane Trailhead in Mountain View. Access to Pond A3W is from the Carl Road Trailhead in Sunnyvale. Roads to these ponds will be opened to private vehicles when levee roads are dry. Access to Ponds A3N and AB2 is by boat from the other ponds. Shooting is allowed only from existing hunt blinds.

2. **Ponds A5, A7, and A8.** These ponds are located on the south end of the bay between Guadalupe Slough and Alviso slough. Access is via walking and bicycling from the Gold Street gate in Alviso. Shooting is allowed from existing hunt blinds and by walking on pond levees.

Male pintail

Hunting Information

Huntable Species

Only ducks, geese, and coots may be hunted on the refuge. All other wildlife is protected.

Fees

A fee will be charged to hunt ponds requiring a Refuge Permit (AB1, A2E, AB2, A3N, A3W, A5, A7, and A8). Call the refuge at 510/792-0222 for more information.

Licenses

All hunters must carry a valid California hunting license. Waterfowl hunters 16 years or older must also possess a valid, signed, Federal Duck Stamp, a state duck stamp, and the Harvest Information Program participation stamp.

Permits

In addition to licenses listed above, a Refuge Permit is required to hunt in Ponds AB1, A2E, AB2, A3N, A3W, A5, A7, and A8N. A permit application may be obtained in person during normal business hours from the Refuge Headquarters at 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, or by mail at P. O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560. The refuge will accept permit requests starting the first Tuesday of September.

Reservations

No reservations are required.

Hunting Season, Days, and Hours

Waterfowl hunting season extends from approximately mid-October to mid-January. See "Hunting Areas" in this brochure for hunting days. Hunting is permitted from one half-hour before sunrise until sunset. More specific information is contained in California Hunting Regulations, Waterfowl.

Alcohol

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Bag and Possession Limits

Hunting limits vary from year to year; read California Hunting Regulations, Waterfowl, for up-to-date information.

Retrieving Zones

Hunters may enter closed areas of the refuge to retrieve downed birds, provided they leave all weapons in a legal hunting area. The use of retriever dogs is encouraged. However, dogs must remain under immediate control of the handler at all times.

Weapons and Ammunition

Shotguns are permitted in designated hunting areas during the waterfowl hunting season only. Only approved non-toxic shotshells are permitted. Firearms must be unloaded until you are within the designated hunt area.

Hunting Blinds

Hunters at Ravenswood may bring portable blinds or construct temporary blinds of natural materials that readily decompose. Collection of these natural materials from the refuge is prohibited. Temporary blinds are not the builder's property, and become available for general use on a first-come basis on subsequent days. Permanent blinds, pit blinds, and digging into levees are prohibited. Hunters may not enter closed areas of the refuge prior to hunting season in order to scout for hunting sites or build blinds. For blinds in Ponds AB1, A2E, AB2, A3N, A3W, A5, A7, and A8, hunters may maintain an existing blind on hunt days. Blinds will be open for general use on a first-come basis. During the two weekends before opening of the hunting season, hunters may enter these ponds to maintain or improve an existing blind.

Accidents

All accidents and injuries occurring on the refuge must be immediately reported to the Refuge Manager, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, PO Box 524, Newark, CA 94560. Phone 510/792-0222.

Removal of Personal Property

All decoys and other personal property (except personal boats authorized by a Refuge Permit) must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day. You must remove all trash, including shotshell hulls when leaving hunting areas.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR
P.O. Box 524
Newark, California 94560
510/792-0222
http://www.fws.gov/desfbay

California Relay Service
TTY 1 800/735 2929
Voice 1 800/735 2922

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
http://www.fws.gov

For Refuge information 1 800/344 WILD

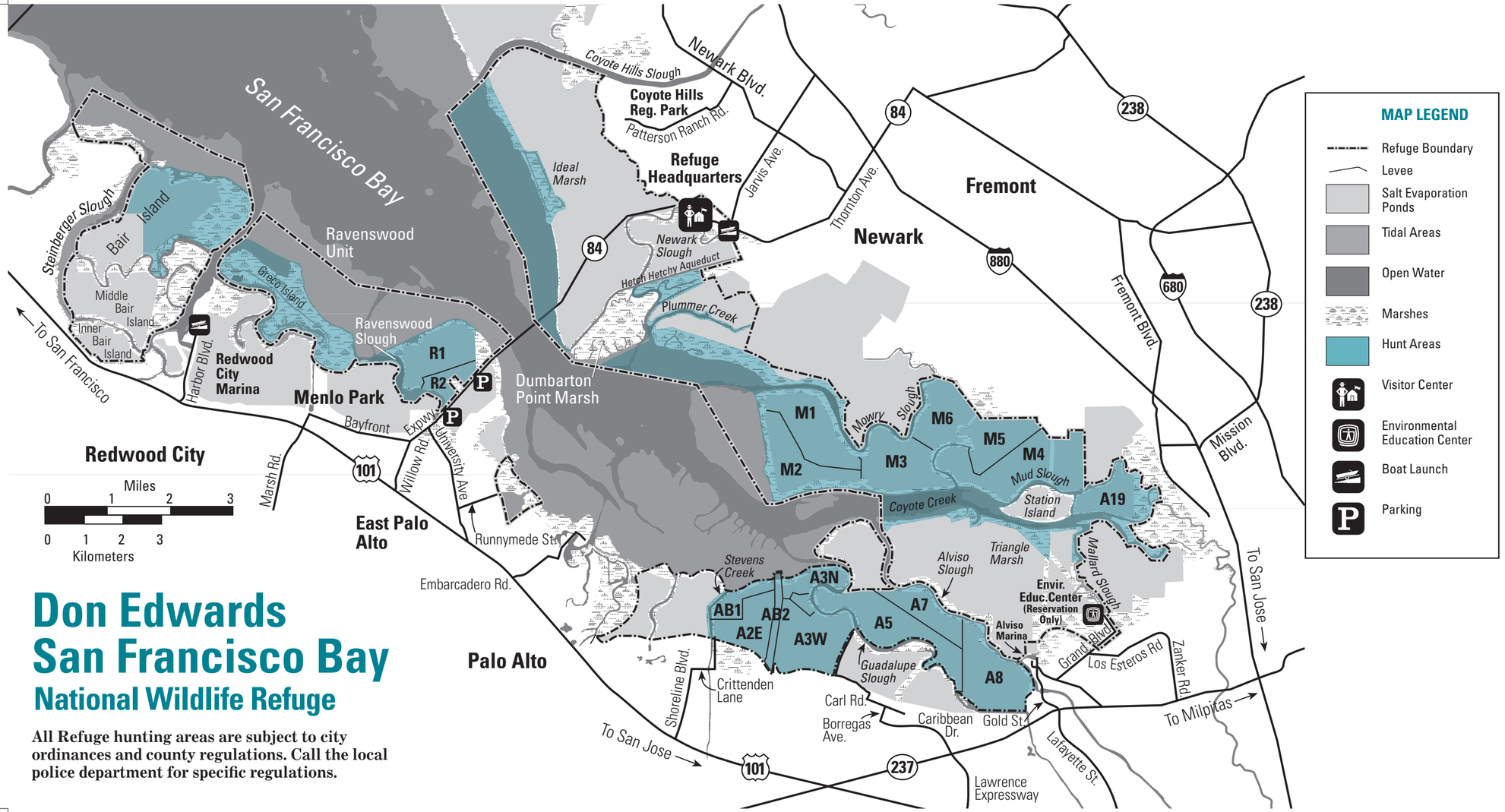
September 2005

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting



Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

All Refuge hunting areas are subject to city ordinances and county regulations. Call the local police department for specific regulations.

Hunting Areas

Tidal Areas

Tidal areas include salt marshes, sloughs, mudflats, and open water of San Francisco Bay. Unless posted in the field and/or noted below, all tidal areas in the refuge are open seven days a week to hunting from a boat, and only up to the mean high water line.

The following tidal areas are **closed** to hunting:

1. Newark Slough is closed to hunting and shooting from its source to the Hetch-Hetchy Aqueduct, a distance of 3 miles.
2. Dumbarton Point Marsh to the Hetch-Hetchy Aqueduct (west side of Newark Slough) is closed to hunting and shooting.
3. The headwaters of Mallard Slough, in the vicinity of the Environmental Education Center, are closed to hunting.

Salt Ponds – No Refuge Permit Required

Salt evaporation ponds are artificial bodies of water, created by dredging marshes and surrounding them with levees. Bay water is confined in these ponds and evaporated to produce salt. Only non-motorized, electric, or 4-stroke gasoline boats are permitted in these ponds.

The salt ponds listed below are the only ones in which hunting is permitted seven days a week. Shooting from levees is prohibited unless hunting the Ravenswood unit.

1. **Ponds R1 and R2 in the Ravenswood Unit.** These ponds are located on the west side of the Dumbarton Bridge between Ravenswood Slough and Hwy 84. These ponds are accessible by foot or bicycle from either of two trailheads off Hwy 84. Hunting is prohibited within 300 feet of Hwy 84.

2. **Ponds M1 to M6, and A19 in the Mowry Slough Unit.** These ponds are located on the east side of the bay between Mowry Slough and Coyote Creek. Access to these ponds is only by boat. Boats may be landed on the bay side of the levee. Boats may be pulled across the levee from the bay. Hunting is prohibited within 300 feet of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.