

Hunter Hotline!

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2009

Greetings to all:

We have birds . . . we have water . . . lots of feed . . . and even a few days of good shooting weather. I can't explain it other than to say with so much food in both hunt areas and closed areas, the birds are choosing the closed. I am afraid this has led to not much shooting in the grain fields on either Refuge. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the closed areas will be fed out soon and the hunting will pick up. Just today actually as I sit in the check station on Tule Lake Refuge writing this month's hotline, the bag numbers being turned in are a little better than they were even a few days ago. Is it looking up already? Maybe.

Marsh hunters are doing well; if you look at the stats the marshes have been fairly consistent. Water levels in Sump 1B are coming up slowly and shooting has been pretty consistent between 3 – 5 bird averages. The LK marshes have been consistent as well and with the water levels coming up in 8b we should be seeing an increase in bag limits soon. Units 9B and C are going to be receiving water the week of Oct. 26th and I am anticipating some bird movement with that delivery.

JUNIOR HUNTS – We have one last youth hunt on Saturday November 28th. The two hunts in October went well. The numbers of youth hunters were down from last year, but those kids who hunted had a good time and all had good opportunities at birds.

LADIES HUNT - Our first annual Ladies hunt came off with out a hitch. Unfortunately the date landed on the opener for the Balance of the State – I'll have to plan better next year. As with the youth hunters there were some good opportunities and most did well. So far the feed back from the ladies has been good.

WATER – I hope all of you have had a chance to look at the habitat / water level map. I have tried to keep it updated weekly; however, some weeks there just haven't been any changes to make. Right now we are doing ok with water. Some water levels are coming down in units on the west side, specifically the disabled blinds in units 1 and 5. Water has been shut down from the canal delivering to the west side including units 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and some of the units in the southern closed areas. However, on the upside the irrigation district will be turning on an additional pump from Tule Lake and we will be able to add water to unit 8b, start units 9b&c and some of Sheepy East.

I hope to see you all soon, if you have any questions or comments please fee free to contact me at the refuge at 530-667-2231 or send me an email at stacy_freitas@fws.gov

