

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Goose Hunt Information and Regulation Sheet

General Information

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) offers goose hunting each year. This hunt is available within a 23 day period at the beginning of the general waterfowl season for Saginaw County Goose Management Unit in the Southern Goose Zone as designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Maps and information about the goose management unit can be found in the annual Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide or on the Michigan DNR web site: www.michigan.gov/dnr. Refuge goose hunting takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The refuge provides 30 blinds for morning hunts only. A lottery drawing is held for blind selection each morning of hunting. The blind selection process begins at 5:30 a.m. at the refuge headquarters, located at 6975 Mower Road, south of Saginaw, Michigan. Doors open at 5:00 a.m. for registration prior to the drawing. All hunters participating in the refuge goose hunting program must follow all state waterfowl regulations as well as refuge specific regulations.

Pre-registered Drawing

Hunters for the first two days of the refuge goose hunt are selected through a random pre-registered drawing administered by the Michigan DNR. The application process can be found on the Michigan DNR web site www.michigan.gov/dnr under game species – waterfowl. Hunters who get a reserved hunt are notified by mail or can check the web site to see if they were selected. A list of successful applicants is provided to the refuge by the Michigan DNR. On the morning of the pre-registered hunts, successful applicants must be at the refuge headquarters in person by 5:30 a.m. to complete the blind selection process. Hunters failing to meet this deadline forfeit their reserved position. They still have the option to wait until all drawing procedures have been completed to see if any blinds are left. If that is the case they may select a blind after all other hunters both pre-registered and standby have made blind selections. In addition to being present in person at the time of the blind selection process, successful applicants must show the refuge staff a photo ID, hunting license and appropriate waterfowl stamps to register for the blind selection process.

Stand-by Drawing

Hunters wishing to hunt geese during the first two days of the season but were not selected for the pre-registered drawing still have a possibility to participate by filling blinds of pre-registered hunters not at the headquarters in time to participate in their blind selection. The drawing for left over blinds will take place amongst all stand-by parties immediately after the initial pre-registered draw.

Open Lottery Drawing

After the first two days of goose hunting at Shiawassee NWR, pre-registered and stand-by draw procedures are no longer be in effect for the remainder of the season. Hunters wishing to take part in this program will be selected and choose their blind location under an open lottery drawing process. The drawing process requires all hunters to be present by 5:30 a.m. to register for drawing and follows the same procedures and regulations for all three types of refuge draws. These procedures and regulations are listed below under refuge specific goose hunting regulations.

Please review refuge goose hunting regulations on back.

Refuge Specific Goose Hunting Regulations

1. Shiawassee NWR does not follow the Michigan Apprentice Program. Any hunter wishing to hunt within the refuge is required to have successfully completed hunter safety.
2. Persons wanting to take part in the drawing and hunt in the fields at Shiawassee NWR must have on their person at the time of the drawing and at all times while in the field, a photo ID (usually a driver's license), a valid hunting license, and all the proper waterfowl stamps.
3. Youth hunters under the age 18 must have some form of ID (school ID, Michigan ID, driver license, etc.), hunter safety certificate, DNR sport card, and valid hunting license on their person at the time of the drawing and at all times while in the field.
4. Youth hunters 16 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult.
5. Hunters 16 years of age or older must have a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp and Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License in addition to a small game license.
6. Hunters as young as 10 years of age may participate in goose hunting at the refuge IF they have successfully completed hunter safety.
7. Hunters arriving late to the refuge are still permitted to fill empty blinds after the lottery blind selection process has been completed up until legal shooting time or after if the blind available is in a separate field and will not disturb other hunters.
8. All persons wishing to partner with other hunters must do so prior to the draw. Hunters will be permitted in the field or blind sites only as registered on the drawing application forms.
9. There is an access fee of \$4 charged to each person going into the field whether they hunt or not. The access fee is charged each day the person participates in the refuge goose hunt. There is no annual access fee for the refuge. Persons qualifying for the Federal Interagency Senior or Access Pass (formerly Golden Age and Golden Access) will receive a 50% discount on the daily fee.
10. No more than 3 hunters/people can occupy any one blind. Single hunters are permitted.
11. All blinds are considered dry land sites located in agricultural fields. Blinds are simply a wooden bench in standing corn with a numbered post out in front along the edge of the corn and winter wheat strip. Decoys may be placed out in the winter wheat.
12. Hunters must stay within 50 feet of the posted location except when retrieving geese.
13. Blind sites cannot be baited using the corn from the strips or any other natural materials.
14. Legal shooting time starts one-half hour before sunrise and ends at 12:00 noon. Afternoon hunts are not available.
15. All hunters, whether they harvest a goose or not, are required to check back into the refuge headquarters by 1:00 p.m. to provide hunter harvest information.
16. The daily and seasonal bag limit for hunters on Shiawassee NWR follows the state regulations published in the Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide.
17. Hunters are restricted to a ten (10) shell limit. Triple B is the largest legal shot size allowed (F or T shot can not be used). Lead shot is not permissible on the refuge. Hunters must use shells with steel or any other non-toxic composite pellets.
18. Guns must be plugged – capable of holding up to three (3) shells only. This means two in the magazine and one in the chamber.
19. Dogs are permitted on the refuge during the goose hunt but must be under control of the owner at all times.
20. Hunters are allowed only one trip in to the blind and one trip out to the parking lot. All articles to be used in the blind or during the hunt must be carried to and from the site at that time.
21. Bottles or cans are not permitted in the blind locations. Hunters should keep the areas as clean as possible.
22. Hunters must be able to identify the game species they are attempting to harvest. Only goose species can be taken during the goose season, including snow, "blue", Ross and white-fronted geese, and brant). All other wildlife species are protected and cannot be harassed or harvested.