



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge
733 Old Clinton Road
Westbrook, CT 06498
Tel. 860-399-2513 Fax 860-399-2515

Waterfowl Hunting – Special Federal Regulations

The following refuge-specific regulations are in effect for the waterfowl hunt at the Great Meadows Unit of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge:

A. Migratory Game Bird Hunting. We allow hunting of duck, coot, and goose on designated areas of the Great Meadows Unit in Stratford, Connecticut in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. We require hunters to obtain an annual Special Use Permit in advance for permission to hunt in the designated hunting area. Consult the refuge manager for details on how and when to apply for a Special Use Permit.

2. We will limit hunt days to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during the waterfowl hunting season as established by the State.

3. During State-established youth days, licensed junior hunters may hunt in the designated hunting area when accompanied by a licensed adult hunter age 18 or older. Adults must possess a valid hunting license; however, we prohibit them carrying a firearm.

4. We prohibit the use of air-thrust and inboard water-thrust boats such as, but not limited to, hovercrafts, airboats, jet skis, watercycles, and waterbikes on all waters within the refuge boundaries.

B. Upland Game Hunting. [Reserved]

C. Big Game Hunting. [Reserved]

D. Sport Fishing. [Reserved]

[70 FR 54163, Sept. 13, 2005, as amended at 79 FR 14825, Mar. 17, 2014; 83 FR 45776, Sept. 10, 2018]

Other Conditions and Information

The special conditions listed here supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Emergencies and Violations: In the event of an emergency, call 911. To report violations or notify the refuge of any accidents, damages, and emergency situations, call USFWS Officer Douglas Beaudreau at 401-354-9329 or USFWS Officer Steven Steniger at 413-687-2402.

Location of the Hunt Zone: Waterfowl hunting is only permitted in the 165 acre hunt zone as shown in the supplied map. All other units of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge and areas within the Great Meadows Unit are closed to hunting. Closed areas contain sensitive wildlife research study sites and simple foot access would be detrimental. Bring your map to ensure you stay within the open area.

Access to the Designated Hunting Zone: Access is permitted by foot and by boat. The hiking trail can be used as an access route. Cars cannot be parked along Lordship Boulevard.

Parking: The only designated parking area for unattended vehicles is on refuge property at the end of Long Beach Boulevard (see supplied map). Motor vehicles are restricted to the parking area and must not block refuge gates. Any cars parked in the refuge parking lot associated with the waterfowl hunting program must display the parking permit provided by the refuge. Hunters must keep their special use permit with them at all times while hunting.