

McFaddin

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



Welcome

Hunting units on McFaddin NWR include the Spaced Blind Hunt Unit (Fee Area), Star Lake/Clam Lake Hunt Unit (Fee Area), Central Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area) and the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area). Hunting units are open on varied days of the week; see specific hunting units below for information on open hunting days. We ask that hunters be good sportsmen and respect the rights of other hunters afield. Sky-blasting flares game, leaves cripples, and disrupts other hunters. Allowing birds to decoy increases your hunting success. Hunting of ducks, geese and coots ONLY permitted in accordance with all federal, state and local laws; in addition to refuge specific hunting regulations outlined in this hunting brochure below. NOTE: Opening of hunting units can change based on weather, marsh conditions, or safety concerns. Emergency changes to regulations will be posted on the McFaddin NWR webpage (www.fws.gov/refuge/mcfaddin).

Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

- All individuals entering a hunting unit are considered hunters and MUST 1) be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl and 2) carry a signed copy of the McFaddin Waterfowl Hunting Permit (included on this document).
- Hunters may not enter any hunting units prior to 4:00am or later than 30 minutes before legal shooting time. Hunters may not shoot before legal shooting time and must stop shooting by 12:00 pm. Hunters must leave hunt units by 12:30 pm.
- Hunters age 17 or younger must be under the supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
- A maximum of 4 adult hunters (18 or older) per hunt group is permitted.
- Hunters must remain a minimum of 200 yards from other hunting groups and spaced ponds. Individual hunters within a party must remain within 50 feet from one another.
- Scouting on any unit is only permitted from sunrise to sunset during the seven days prior to Veterans and Youth Waterfowl Season. You may not scout at any other time.
- Hunters 16 years of age or younger who plan on hunting during the Veterans and Youth Waterfowl Weekend must have a valid hunting license and be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
- All regulations stay in effect during Light Goose Conservation Order (Light Goose Season).

We permit the following:

- Possession of firearms in accordance with federal and state laws. All hunters must unload and encase shotguns while traveling in vehicles and boats on the refuge.
- Vehicle travel on designated roads and parking areas only.
- Temporary portable blinds. You must remove all blinds, decoys, boats, spent shells, chairs, and equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.
- Use of retriever dogs is encouraged. They must be under the control of their handlers at all times.

We prohibit the following:

- Discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting.
- Use or possession of toxic shot, e.g., lead, including those shells in vehicles and boats.
- Individual possession of more than 50 approved shotgun shells, including those in boats and vehicles.
- Driving and parking on levees and non-designated roads. Parked vehicles must not block the roadway or access to levees.
- Hunting from a roadway.
- Any form of blocking the following: roadways, gates, trails, catwalks, boat ramps, or any facility.
- Mooring to water control structures.
- Operation of motorized boats on or through emergent wetland vegetation and mudflats.
- Boat motors greater than 25 HP in the hunting units.
- Motorized boats powered by air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines with a propeller larger than 9 inches in diameter in the hunting units.
- Airboats, marsh buggies, ATV's/UTV's, and personal watercraft (PWC). Drone use.
- Possession or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Campfires, charcoal, and wood grills. (Gas grills may be utilized).
- Construction, use, or occupancy of permanent hunting blinds.
- Deliberate destruction, cutting, or harvesting of refuge plants.
- Introduction of non-native, invasive, or exotic plants.
- Use of plastic flagging, reflectors, or reflective tape.
- Leaving personal property, trash, or spent shells.

McFaddin NWR Waterfowl Hunting Permit 2025–2026

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Expires August 31, 2026

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Failure to abide by or excessive violations of these refuge specific hunting regulations, federal regulations or state laws may result in revocation of your hunting privileges by the refuge manager. The regulations listed are a supplement to the general regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations which govern all activities on National Wildlife Refuges.

Spaced Blind Hunt Unit (Fee Area)

There are 28 Spaced Blind Hunt Areas. A maximum of four hunters per area is permitted. **Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a \$12 day use hunt fee.**

Hunters will designate a Spaced Blind Hunt Area based on a reservation system. Reservations will be taken between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. the Friday prior to the hunt weekend. Reservations can be made in person at the check station or via telephone at 409-971-2255. There will be a limit of 1 reservation per vehicle present at the check station. No unattended vehicles allowed overnight in the reservation line. Hunters will be required to remain in their reserved area for that day's hunt.

Hunters are required to check-in and check-out of the check station at the refuge entrance. Check-in begins at 4:00 A.M. and hunters must check-out by 12:30 P.M. Spaced Blind Hunt Area reservations not claimed by 5:00 A.M. will be issued to stand-by hunters on a first come first served basis.

Hunter access points via boat are at boat ramps located at the Ten Mile Cut Bridge (Ponds 4, 8, 9 & 10), Spaced Hunt Area #5 (Ponds 5, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32) and Spaced Hunt Area #12 (Ponds 11, 12 and 13). Walk-in access is available for ponds: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 11.

Accessible hunting blind: Spaced Blind Hunt Area #11 is reserved for hunters with disabilities. It will become available to non-disabled hunters on a stand-by basis at 5:00 A.M. each hunt day. If any disabled hunting parties arrive for stand-by status, Spaced Blind Hunt Area #11 will be automatically issued to that party.

Open for Hunting: Regular Waterfowl Season: Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during Early Teal Season, during hunt split, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Light Goose Season.

Star Lake / Clam Lake Hunt Unit (Fee Area)

Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a \$12.00 day use hunt fee.

Hunters are required to check-in and check-out of the check station at the entrance to McFaddin NWR, including those hunters accessing the hunt unit from the beach at the Brine Line or Perkins Levee. Check-in begins at 4:00 A.M. and hunters must check-out by 12:30 P.M.

Hunters will designate their hunting area on a first come, first served basis on a sign-in sheet as well as by placing a sticker on the hunt map in the check station. Hunters will be required to remain in that area for that day's hunt.

Hunter access points via boat are at boat ramps located on the South-East end of Clam Lake, the North-West end of Clam Lake and the East end of Star Lake. Walk-in access points are located off McFaddin Beach at Perkins Levee and the Brine Line.

Open for Hunting: Early Teal Season: 7 days a week (no fee during teal season). Regular Waterfowl Season: Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during hunt split, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Light Goose Season.

Central Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area)

Use extreme caution! Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist. Considerable amounts of silt accumulate quickly within the West End Cut Access. Use extreme care and personal light sources when entering. Ongoing construction on the beach will occur on this unit throughout waterfowl season.

The Central Hunt Unit is located East and West of White's Levee. Walk-in access off McFaddin Beach is located at two hunter access points. Boat access to the interior waterways of the Central Hunt Unit is available off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Use of a winch or boat rollers is necessary for access to the Central Hunt Unit off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Open for Hunting: Early Teal Season: 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season: Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during hunt split, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Light Goose Season.

Mud Bayou Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area)

Use extreme caution! Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is very remote and navigational hazards exist.

The Mud Bayou Hunt Unit is located on the West End of McFaddin NWR near High Island, TX. Walk-in access off of McFaddin Beach is located at three hunter access points: Middleton Levee, Mud Lake Levee and the Brush Line. Boat access to the interior waterways of the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit is available off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Open for Hunting: Early Teal Season: 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season: Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Closed for Hunting: Closed during hunt split, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Light Goose Season.

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 358
Sabine Pass, TX 77655
409-971-2909
409-971-2255 Check Station

www.fws.gov/refugeMcFaddin

August 2025

