



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sacramento

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

Welcome

The public hunting program on Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Parts of the Refuge are closed to hunting for sanctuary and management purposes. This refuge contains 10,819 acres, of which 3,566 are open to controlled hunting for geese, ducks, coots, moorhens, snipe, pheasant and turkey concurrent with the seasons established by the State of California. Be sure to observe signs designating closed areas or restricted zones.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

For more information:

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
752 County Road 99W
Willows, CA 95988
530-934-2801
www.fws.gov/refuge/sacramento

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
www.wildlife.ca.gov

July 2023

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Hunting is by Entry Permit Only

An entry permit must be obtained at the check station. All licenses, stamps, validations, and passes must be acquired prior to arrival - these items **will not be sold** at the check station, but may be purchased at sporting goods stores or online at www.wildlife.ca.gov.

Hunter Check Station Hours

During waterfowl hunting season, the check station opens at 6:00pm on Fridays for the Saturday and Sunday shoot days, and 6:00pm on Tuesdays for the Wednesday shoot days. Shoot time begins ½ hour before legal sunrise and ends at legal sunset.

Obtaining and Returning an Entry Permit

Entry permits are acquired through reservations, lottery, or first-come first-serve.

- Reservation holders will be issued an entry permit in numerical order stamped on their reservation starting 2½ hours before shoot time. Reservations are valid only when presented at the check station at least 1½ hours before shoot time - no exceptions. Reservation application forms are available at sporting goods stores where hunting licenses are sold and online at www.wildlife.ca.gov. Application deadline is 17 days in advance of the desired hunting date.
- Lottery number holders will be issued an entry permit following reservation holders the morning of the hunt. Hunters may enter the lottery from 6:00 - 8:00pm Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The lottery is conducted at 8:00pm and results are posted soon afterwards. Hunters may leave the area once they have obtained their lottery number but must be present when their number is called. Hunters are only permitted to enter ONE Type A Area lottery each Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. Hunters in violation of this regulation are subject to citation and a seasonal ban from National Wildlife Refuge hunting areas. A lottery purge will occur at 8:00am, when the names of hunters not present will be removed from the list.
- After reservation and lottery holders are processed, entry permits will be issued from a first-come first-serve list. Hunters may sign up as first-come first-serve after the 8:00pm lottery draw.
- No entry permits will be issued after 3:00pm. All hunters must check out at the check station, report hunting results, and return their entry permit before leaving the area by 1½ hours after shoot time ends. Hunters must vacate the refuge no later than 1½ hours after legal sunset unless participating in overnight stay at the check station on Tuesday, Friday or Saturday night.

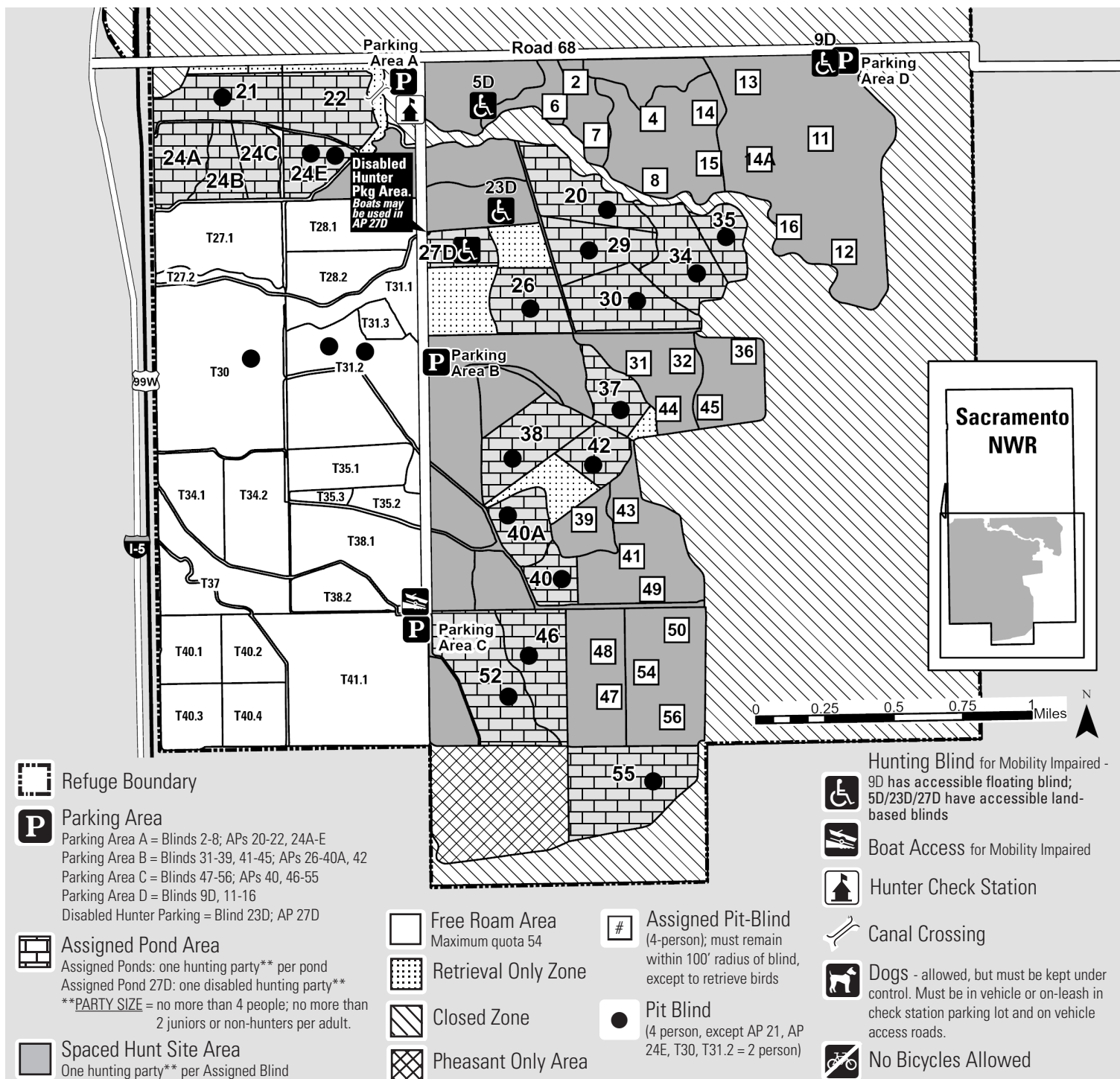
Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of California regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website. Please refer to the "California Regulations for Waterfowl and Upland Game Hunting on State and Federal Areas" (CDFW Booklet) for daily shoot times, permit fees, and Refuge-Specific Regulations.



Refuge-Specific Regulations

- Hunters in assigned hunting blinds are restricted to hunting within a 100 foot radius of the blind, except to retrieve birds.
- Hunters in assigned ponds (AP) are restricted to the area within the signed AP boundary. No hunting from levees.
- Hunters may only enter or exit the hunt area from designated parking areas. Equipment may not be dropped off or picked up between parking areas.
- Loaded firearms are prohibited in parking areas. Shooting from or across parking areas, safety zones and access roads is prohibited.
- Federally approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting. Hunters are limited to a 25-shell limit while in the field.
- No shot guns larger than 12-gauge and no shot size larger than BB, except steel "T" (.20" diameter), are permitted.
- Possession or consumption of an open container of alcohol or marijuana (including medical marijuana) are prohibited.
- White-fronted geese (speckle-bellies) may not be taken after December 21.
- Electronic or mechanically-operated spinning blade devices or decoys are prohibited from the start of waterfowl season through November 30. Wind-powered spinning-wing decoys are allowed.
- Hunters 15 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult hunter at all times.

Note : Pheasant hunting is not permitted in the blind & assigned pond areas except on the 1st Monday of pheasant season.

Pheasant, turkey and snipe hunting are permitted during their appropriate seasons on shoot days in free roam/pheasant-only areas, from 8:00am-sunset.