

# Wapato Lake

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025–2026



### Welcome:

Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge was officially established in 2013 as part of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. With over 900 acres of continuous protected area, Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge is a fantastic place for a variety of wildlife, including the many migratory waterfowl that stop-over in the winter. The refuge is amazing year-round though; the changing seasons are reflected in the fluctuations of landscape and the wildlife who inhabit it.

### Application

Details can be found online at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wapato-lake/visit-us/activities/hunting>. The application period is open from October 1st, 2025 through October 31st, 2025.

### Safety

This is a self-guided hunt. Only shotguns are permitted, shot size cannot exceed BB, and all shot must be federally approved non-toxic shot.

### 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.)

### Vehicles

Parking is provided. A trail leads from the parking area to the blind sites (see map for parking).

### Boats

Only non-motorized watercraft are allowed and only to facilitate access to the designated hunting blind, for retrieval of downed waterfowl and for decoy use (placement and retrieval of decoys). Only one non-motorized watercraft per blind is allowed.

### Dogs

Dogs are allowed for retrieving waterfowl only. They must be engaged in hunting activity and under the immediate control of a licensed hunter.

### Accessibility Information

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>.

The ADA blind provides improved access to hunters with disabilities. See <http://www.odfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/disability> for further information on how to qualify for preference for this blind.

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/wapato-lake>

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

August 2025



Prohibited Activities

- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Possession, or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Overnight Camping
- Fires
- Overnight parking
- Littering (including empty shotgun shells)
- Commercial guiding for hunting, trapping or netting
- Use of ATV’s, bicycles and other off-road vehicles

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:

- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited

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 Oregon regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Access

**WHEN:** There is no check station for this hunt. The hunt area will be open for access 2 hours before and after legal shooting hours. Hunt days are outlined below.

**WHERE:** This hunt occurs at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Parking is located at 104 Onion Lane, Gaston, OR 97119. There is a large gravel parking lot with an accessible restroom. The paved trail, off the parking lot, is the entrance to the hunting area. Selected hunters, who requested the accessible hunt blind, in their application, will be contacted by refuge staff regarding alternative access options. You must possess a current ODFW Disability permit for use of this alternative access.

Harvest Reporting

In addition to meeting statewide harvest reporting, permitted hunters need to complete a Refuge specific Waterfowl Harvest Report. Using the link found in your original selection announcement email, you can submit your harvest report directly to refuge staff. This must be completed by February 15, 2026, regardless of whether or not you hunted on your drawn day, or were successful.

Activity	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Regulation
Waterfowl Hunting (Ducks and coots only.)	2025-2026 Season Dates:  Hunts occur on Tues/Thurs/Sat  December 2025: 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30  January 2026: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17	Ducks and coots only. All other species of wildlife not listed are protected	Six, semi-permanent, designated hunt blinds, with one semi-permanent ADA blind. Note, only six blinds will be operating on any given hunt day.	Blinds will be assigned by random drawing of applications. All hunting must take place within the assigned blind. Hunting from levees is prohibited. A max of (4) people may occupy a blind. All hunters must hunt from their designated blind, except to retrieve downed birds. If the lottery holder leaves, so too must the guests. Additionally, proper State permits and licenses are required.

