

# Cibola

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations



### Welcome

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1964 as mitigation for channelization and dam construction on the Colorado River in the 1930s and 1940s. The refuge is located in both Arizona and California along the floodplain of the Lower Colorado River and provides important habitat for migratory birds, wintering waterfowl, and resident species. The refuge contains several miles of historic river channels and backwaters that provide key habitats in a changed environment.

### 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

All vehicles must be licensed, registered, and insured for highway use to be operated on refuge roads. All operators must be licensed. Motor vehicle traffic is limited to designated roads and parking areas (see map). Vehicles are not permitted off designated roads. The refuge-wide speed limit is 25 mph.

### Boats

Boat launches are available at different locations on the refuge. Cibola Lake, Three Fingers Lake, and Hart Mine Marsh are no-wake and only electric trolling motors or manually powered vessels may be used. With the exception of the main channel of the Colorado River, all waters on the refuge are no-wake zones. Pretty Water is a no-wake zone, but gasoline motors are permitted.

### Accessibility

Hunters with a permanent disability or mobility impairment may contact the Refuge Manager to request reasonable accommodation for general refuge hunting. In the Unit 2 Goose hunt, one blind is available for hunters with an Arizona CHAMP permit.

If no CHAMP permit hunters are present, the blind will be made available to other hunters.

### 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 states of Arizona and California regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

### Access

Hunter access is permitted 4:30 a.m. MST to one hour after sunset daily, with the following exceptions;

- Hart Mine Marsh - Entry for everyone is permitted between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. MST, October 1 through March 14.
- Unit 2 - Access is limited to hunters who have received approval for use of a specific blind. Blind approval is awarded through a draw which occurs at 4:30 am MST at the Goose Shack on the day of the hunt. Access is permitted from the time of the drawing to one-hour after sunset on Tuesdays, Wednesday, Saturdays, and Sundays starting the first Saturday after Thanksgiving until the end of goose season. See Unit 2 Goose Hunt section in this brochure for goose hunt drawing information. During waterfowl season blinds are only to be used for hunting. Additionally, Unit 2 is closed to hunters the second weekend of December for the Youth Waterfowl Camp.
- Island Unit - During the Arizona 10-day general deer hunting season, hunter access is permitted 4:30 a.m. MST to one hour after sunset. Vehicle traffic is limited to roads identified on the brochure map.

### Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Permit

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

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**Sign and date** (permits are not transferable)

Secondary roads on the Island Unit are only opened to foot traffic and non-motorized vehicles (i.e. game carts). Park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map below.

- Cibola Lake is closed to all hunting.

### Special Regulations

*Unit 2, Hart Mine Marsh, Island Unit, CA Lands*

- Waterfowl – Only shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells may be used for waterfowl. Unit 2 (First Saturday after Thanksgiving). Unit 2 and Island Unit, Youth Waterfowl Camp (second weekend in December). Unit 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunt (second weekend in February).
- Wilson’s Snipe – Only shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells may be used.

*Unit 1 South, Unit 2, Hart Mine Marsh, Island Unit, and CA Lands*

- Dove – Only shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells may be used.
- Unit 2 is only open for dove hunting during the early dove season. It is closed during the second season. Eurasian collared dove may only be hunted on the refuge during the state dove season.
- Follow state (AZ, CA) regulations for white-winged dove.
- Island Unit is closed to dove hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Camp

**Cibola National Wildlife Refuge**  
66600 Cibola Lake Road  
Cibola, AZ 85328

928-857-3253

[www.fws.gov/refuge/cibola/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/cibola/)

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

August 2023



- Gambel’s quail – Methods of take include shotgun, handgun shooting shot, and bow and arrow.
- Quail hunting in Unit 2 is permitted from the season opening until October 31 and again after the last day of the waterfowl season until the close of quail season.
- Desert cottontail rabbit – Methods of take include shotgun, rifle (CA only), handgun, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, and crossbow. All ammunition must be federally approved non-toxic shot (non-lead).
- Rabbit hunting in Unit 2 is permitted Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 and Feb. 1 to end of quail season.
- Mule Deer – Methods of take for Unit 1 South, Unit 2, and Hart Mine Marsh are bow and arrow and crossbow only. Methods of take for Island Unit and CA lands, follow state regulations. All ammunition used on CA lands must be federally approved non-toxic (non-lead).
- Unit 2 is closed to deer hunting during the waterfowl season.

State hunting and fishing regulations and licensing requirements apply to all hunting and fishing on the refuge. Consult state regulations for season dates. Shooting hours and methods of take may differ from the State. Signed refuge hunt brochure must be in possession of hunter.

### Hunt Brochure

All hunters regardless of age are required to have a signed refuge hunt brochure in their possession. Hunters must possess a valid hunting license and any required stamps from the state in which they are hunting.

### Guided Hunts

All persons for hire assisting or guiding a hunter or fisherman must obtain, possess, and carry a valid commercial special use permit issued by the refuge manager.

### Ammunition

Federally approved, non-toxic (non-lead) ammunition is required for all refuge hunting in both Arizona and California, with the exception of the 10 day general deer hunt in Arizona.

### Game Retrieval

Only upon specific consent from an authorized refuge employee may you retrieve game from an area closed to hunting or public entry.

### Unit 2 Goose Hunt

Only Unit 2’s managed waterfowl hunt requires a reservation. To participate in the lottery, hunters must submit an application to the refuge office by mail. Applications will be accepted from September 1 to November 1, and must be postmarked by November 1. The drawing will take place in November. The application form, FWS Form 3-2439 (Hunt Application/Permit) can be downloaded from Cibola’s website: [fws.gov/refuge/Cibola](http://fws.gov/refuge/Cibola).

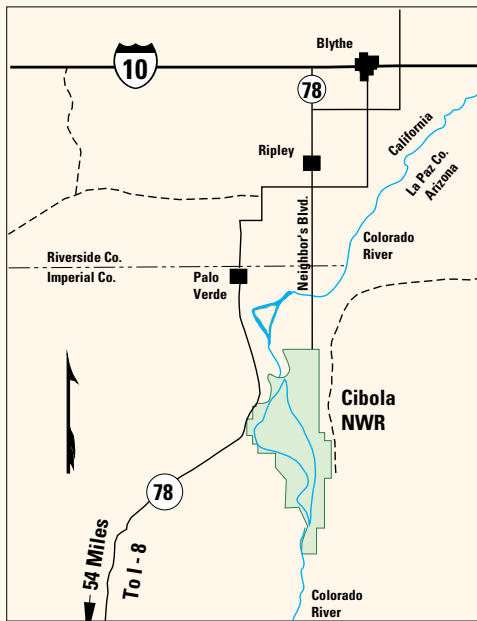
There is no application fee, but ensure application information is correct and legible. Mail applications to:

Cibola NWR  
Attn: Hunt Drawing  
66600 Cibola Lake Road

## **Prohibited Activities**

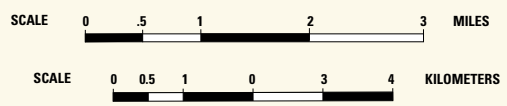
- Disturbing, destroying, or removing any plants is prohibited.
- The use or possession (within physical proximity) of alcohol while hunting is prohibited.
- Disturbing or interfering with any person engaged in an authorized activity on the refuge is prohibited.
- Camping and fires are not permitted.
- Dogs must be confined or leashed unless actively participating in legal hunting activities.
- Pit or permanent blinds are not permitted (except those provided by the refuge).
- All personal items must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's activity, i.e. boats, equipment, temporary blinds, etc.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices (i.e., trail cameras) is prohibited.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substances is prohibited.
- Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of any public use facility.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Littering is prohibited.





**Legend**

- Marsh
- State Boundary
- Refuge Boundary
- Paved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Levee Roads
- General Hunting Area
- Closed to Hunting



BLM  
Wilderness