

Pintail Slough

Hunting Regulations



Welcome

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. Pintail Slough, located in Arizona, is comprised of all refuge lands north of the North Dike and west of Mohave Co. Rd. 1.

This tearsheet contains hunting regulations for the Pintail Slough only. Consult the general hunting tearsheet for regulations governing public use and hunting on all other areas of the refuge.

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.)

Havasu NWR is a non-lead shot zone, use or possession of lead ammo is prohibited. We allow shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, pneumatic gun, crossbow, and archery equipment for hunting.

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 will be in accordance with applicable State of Arizona regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Refuge-specific Hunting Regulations

We allow hunting of mourning and white-winged dove, Eurasian and African collared-dove, duck, coot, moorhen, goose, common snipe, Gambel's quail, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, coyote, gray and kit fox, and feral swine in Pintail Slough. All other species are prohibited.

Motorized vehicles may operate on designated public roadways only and must be "street legal" i.e. licensed, insured and equipped to operate on highways according to Arizona state laws.

Guide service providers must obtain a Special Use Permit from the refuge on which they provide services.

Species, Dates and Hours

During waterfowl season, only hunters with valid quota hunt permits to hunt ducks, geese, coots, snipe, and common gallinule from a blind or goose field may incidentally take Eurasian and African collared-dove, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, coyote, gray and kit fox, and feral swine in permit-only areas. We allow waterfowl hunting on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Waterfowl hunting ends at 2 p.m. MST (Mountain Standard Time). Hunters must be out of Pintail Slough permit area by 3 p.m. MST.

Daily bag and possession limits

In accordance with Arizona State regulations: info available at: azgfd.gov.

Hunting Days (In-state season)

Dove: Is permitted on all open refuge areas and any designated dove fields in Pintail Slough in accordance with state regulations.

Upland game: Permitted daily in all Small Game Hunt Areas during waterfowl season (September 1-March 15), except in the Pintail Slough Permit Area.

Gambel's Quail: Permitted daily in all Small Game Hunt Areas during waterfowl season except in the Pintail Slough Permit Area.

Quota area hunt regulations

- Hunters must carry their quota hunt permit and hunt licenses while hunting.
- Hunters are required to hunt within 25 feet of the numbered post of their assigned blind location or goose field.
- We limit the number of persons at each blind to (4), including observers. Observers cannot hold shells or guns unless in possession of valid state license and stamps.
- All hunters must possess at least 4 decoys per blind location (We recommend the outer decoy be placed no more than 75 feet from the blind to reduce injuries to waterfowl).
- Use of retrieving dogs is encouraged. Dogs must always be kept under control.
- All personal items must be removed at the end of each day's hunt, including all trash.
- Hunting weapons must be unloaded except when at designated blinds/goose field or when retrieving birds.
- Completed hunt data form (FWS form 3-2361) must be turned in after the completion of a quota hunt. Failure to report hunt data can affect future eligibility.

Quota Hunt Permit

Individuals wishing to hunt waterfowl in the Pintail Slough management unit must reserve their blinds through the recreation.gov website. Windows to schedule blinds for particular hunts are as follows:

September 15 - Open reservation for hunt window #1 (October 1 - November 15).

November 1 - Open reservation for hunt window #2 (November 15 - December 31)

December 15 - Open reservation for hunt window #3 (January 1 - January 31)

Quota Hunt Fee

Reservation fee is \$50.00 per blind, payable through the recreation.gov website. Permits are refundable until 24 hours before the hunt date on the permit. Permittees will be refunded \$44.00 of their \$50.00 permit fee due to the \$6.00 nonrefundable processing fee assessed at the time of purchase. Permit holders are required to have a digital or printed permit in their possession while hunting.

It is good hunter etiquette to cancel a blind reservation as soon as it is determined that the hunter will not be available for the reserved hunt date. Hunters are strongly advised to cancel reservations 24 hours in advance of scheduled hunt date to allow others a chance to reserve the vacated blind.

Quota Hunt Locations

Hunt blinds will be available during AZ Desert zone waterfowl season on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only, from a half hour before sunrise to 2:00pm MST. All hunt locations are reserved the first weekend of January for Youth Hunt.

Goose Field

The goose fields will be partially planted and irrigated. The opportunity to hunt goose fields 1 and 2 will be available each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Hunt location (Goose field 1 and Goose field 2) will be designated by numbered poles at each field. Hunt slots for this location will be filled by the same online reservation system as the rest of the blinds in Pintail Slough through the recreation.gov website.

Hunt Vacancies/ No Shows

42 days at 12 blind locations will be available at Pintail Slough this waterfowl season. If a quota permit hunter can not show up for their designated hunt, they must navigate to recreation.gov and cancel their reservation 24 hours prior to the date of their reserved hunt.

Youth Hunters

Havasas NWR in partnership with Arizona Game & Fish Dept. will be conducting a youth hunter education hunt/camp the first full weekend of January. Blind reservations will not be available for those dates. For further information about youth participation or opportunities to volunteer as a mentor, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman office at 928/692-7700.

Hunt Times/ Check-Out

It is recommended that all hunters occupy their designated hunt blind locations 30 minutes before legal shooting time, but no earlier than 4:00am. Hunting in the Pintail Slough unit is allowed until 2:00PM MST. Quota permit holders and guests can end their hunt and leave the area at anytime, but must minimize disturbance to other hunting parties. All hunters and equipment must be out of Pintail Slough by 3:00PM MST. Please submit a Migratory Bird Hunt Report (FWS form 3-2361) accounting for all birds harvested and/or not retrieved. This data is important for the assessment of management of the waterfowl hunt at Pintail Slough.

Gate/ Parking

The Pintail Slough gate will remain closed to public entry during waterfowl season, but Quota hunt permit holders may enter through the automatic gate. The automatic gate will open at 4:00 am each day and close at 4:00 pm during hunt days. Only the recreation.gov permit holder and up to 4 guests may bring vehicles to the blind parking area. Blind parking is limited to 1 vehicle which is parked under the vehicle blind. All other vehicles must be parked in the Pintail Hunt Unit entrance parking.

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Vehicle access will be limited to the refuge road and to parking areas. The gravel road adjacent to blind locations will be limited to walking access. During inclement weather, no access by vehicle is permitted beyond the entrance gate. Blinds will be accessed by foot when roads are wet post rain event.

Closed to Hunting

(Noted on the Pintail Slough Management Map)

Areas with one line crossed through them are closed to all hunting. Hunters may retrieve downed birds in this area as long as they leave their method of take (shotguns, pistol, bow and arrows) in the open area. Dogs may retrieve in these areas.

Closed to All Entry

(Noted on the Pintail Slough Management Map)

Areas with cross hatches are closed to all entry, including hunting, from beginning of the state waterfowl season to the end of the Junior's only waterfowl hunt.

Hunters with Disabilities

No blinds are designated as handicap accessible. All blind parking has been adjusted to accommodate all users that cannot walk large distances from parking areas.

Lake Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Complex

60911 Highway 95
Parker, AZ 85344

928-667-4144

lakehavasurefuges@fws.gov
fws.gov/refuge/havasu/

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Conduct

Each hunter is expected to respect the rights of others. Interference with another's hunting, long range shooting or unsportsmanlike behavior, or failure to follow refuge hunt regulations may result in revocation of quota permit and hunting privileges for the remainder of the season.

Littering

Hunters are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Shell casings and associated debris must be picked up and packed out. All blinds must be left clean.

Accident or Injury

Accidents involving damage to property, injury to the public or injury to wildlife that occur within the boundaries of any national wildlife refuge are to be reported as soon as possible. To report incidents or illegal activities after hours and weekends call 1-800-637-9152 for law enforcement dispatch office. Injuries or accidents occurring on the refuge during normal business hours, must be reported immediately to the Refuge Manager at 928/919-0966.

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect all refuge signs including:

- No hunting zone
- Non-toxic shot zone
- Unauthorized entry prohibited
- No camping
- No campfires
- Applies to the area located behind the sign:
- Refuge Boundary: Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Closed Area: All entry prohibited
- No Hunting Zone: Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited
- No Wake Zone
- No PWC (Personal Watercraft)

Prohibited Activities

- Use of rifle
- Target shooting or the discharge of a weapon except to hunt
- Pits, permanent blinds and stands, trail or scouting cameras, and baiting
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Fires
- Camping
- Falconry
- Air-cooled outboard motors (surface-drive) are allowed, but all air-thrust boats including floating aircraft are prohibited.

Pintail Slough Management Unit

