



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Ridgefield

## National Wildlife Refuge Lottery and Recreation Fees 2023-2024

### Welcome

Waterfowl hunting is offered on approximately 760 acres in a spaced blind area on the River S Unit.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 along the Columbia River to "provide wintering habitat for the dusky subspecies of Canada goose." The 5300-acre refuge contains wetlands, grasslands, riparian corridors, and forests. These habitats provide a home for native species, including wintering waterfowl.

**Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Administrative Office**  
28908 N Main Ave  
Ridgefield, WA 98642  
360-887-4106

<http://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Ridgefield>  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1-800-344-WILD

August 2023

### Optional Reservation Lottery

Reservations give hunters first blind pick during the morning check-in but are not required to hunt. Reservations lost due to a Refuge closure (dangerous weather conditions, safety issue, emergency, or government shutdown) will not be reissued or refunded. Reservations are non-transferable.

Reservations are awarded through an electronic lottery system managed by RecAccess, a government-approved vendor. The lottery application fee is \$1.00 per date selected plus a one-time application fee of \$5. Only one application per hunter per season will be accepted. Reservations for the entire season will be generated in one pre-season lottery and must be submitted electronically through the approved vendor RecAccess.

No paper applications or in-person payment will be accepted.  
Find the online application at: <https://ridgefield.recaccess.com/>

### Youth Hunt:

On the annual Youth Hunt day, only reservations for youth (under 16) will be issued. General hunting will resume at noon with a lottery to assign any blinds that remain available. See the website for this season's Youth Hunt date and for more information.

### Daily Recreation Fees

Daily fees are paid during check-in. Cash (exact change) and check only. No credit cards.

### Fee per blind/per day:

**Single hunter:** \$10.00/blind

**Hunt party of 2 or 3:** \$8.00/person

**Youth Hunters:** Hunters (under 16) are exempt from paying the daily fee.

### Recreation Passes

**Federal Golden Age/Senior Pass/Access Pass:** Holders of these inter-agency passes are entitled to a 50% discount on both daily fees and season passes. These passes are not available during blind check in. They can be obtained by visiting the Refuge Complex Administrative Office in Ridgefield before your hunt day, or online at [store.usgs.gov](https://store.usgs.gov)

**Refuge Season Hunt Pass:** \$100.00 or \$50.00 with a Senior/Access Pass discount. Not transferable to another hunter. Attendant will manage list of all payees for season.

Season passes can be obtained by visiting the Refuge Complex Administrative Office in Ridgefield before your hunt day, or at the check station during blind check-in. Cash and check only. No credit cards. Exact change required.

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





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## National Wildlife Refuge Blind Assignments 2023-2024

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### Morning Hunt Blind Assignments

The Refuge will open to hunters only at 2 ¼ hours before legal shoot time. Please allow yourself time to travel 1 ½ miles to the check station at 15 mph. The check-in process will close promptly at 1 hour and 45 minutes before legal shoot time to begin the orientation and blind assignments. Any hunters not signed up at that time will have to wait until the 10 a.m. check-in and forfeit any reservation they hold, no exceptions. Please remember to bring your hunting license, Duck Stamp, and exact change for the daily fee. Hunting license components are not sold at the Refuge. All hunters are responsible for knowing all applicable WA state regulations.

### Blind assignments will be issued in the following order:

1. Reservation hunters (with up to two guests) in reservation order 1-15
2. Standby hunters by order of an on-site lottery system. All members of self-identified hunt parties (up to 3 individuals) must remain together through blind selections. Those who do not select blinds during this process may elect to be put on a waiting list for the 10 a.m. check-in.

### Blind 1A (disabled hunters only)

If one or more reservation hunters qualify for blind 1A, it is offered to the party with the lowest reservation number. If blind 1A is still available after all reservation assignments, then it is offered to the eligible standby party with the lowest ping pong ball lottery number.

### 10:00 a.m. check-in

Refilling of vacant blinds resumes at 10 a.m. Check-in opens at 9:30 a.m. and closes promptly at 10:00 a.m. An orientation and lottery will be conducted to establish the order of blind assignments. Hunters on the waiting list from the morning check-in have first selection of blinds that are available, with new hunters placed on the wait list after them. All hunters MUST be present at 10 a.m. to maintain their position on the wait list. Any hunters arriving after this check-in will select blinds on a first come, first served basis behind the wait line.

### Switching Blinds

Hunters wishing to switch blinds must remove all gear from the field, report to the check station to check-out from the vacated blind, submit a Migratory Bird Hunt Report, and then ask about blinds available. Hunters switching blinds are not given any selection priority and will be subject to either the 10:00 a.m. lottery or any current waiting list.

### AM Radio System

The Refuge uses a short-range AM radio system at the check station for the morning orientation and announcements. After signing in, remain in your car and tune into AM 1700 kHz, until your party is called to the check station for blind selection.

Capacity under the check station awning is limited to no more than 3 hunter parties at any given time. Hunters are asked to give other hunt parties distance.

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