



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Ridgefield

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 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

### Safety

Any injuries or accidents occurring on the Refuge must be reported immediately to the check station staff or to the Refuge Manager. Any hazardous conditions requiring attention should also be reported.

### 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.)

Weapons must be unloaded except at blinds or while retrieving crippled birds. Hunters may not shoot or discharge any firearm from, across, or along any designated route of travel, including pedestrian trails. Only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting.

### Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads and as shown on the map. ATVs, UTVs, and golf carts are prohibited.

### 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>.

Blind 1A for is reserved exclusively for use by hunters with permanent disabilities who qualify for WA Disability Status or the Federal America the Beautiful Access Pass, and up to two additional occupants. Additionally, blind 8 is also designated for accessibility but remains available to any hunting party on a first come first served basis. See check-in process for details.

### Hunting 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 (parts 27.42 & 32).

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

Failure to comply with State/Federal regulations or Refuge specific conditions may be grounds for citation and/or loss of privileges to participate in the Refuge's waterfowl hunt program.

Ridgefield NWR is within Washington's Goose Management Area 2 and is closed to dusky Canada goose harvest. The Refuge will enact an emergency goose season closure if the dusky Canada goose harvest reaches a Refuge adopted quota.

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and waters managed for the benefit of  
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### Access

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.

### Dogs

The use of a trained retriever is encouraged but not required to minimize waste of harvested waterfowl. Dogs must be kept on leash in parking lots and while hiking to/from blinds. Pet waste must be removed, as it is unhealthy for wildlife and water quality.

### Harvest Reporting/ Check out

All hunters must check out at the hunter check station, complete a Migratory Bird Harvest Report and present all harvested birds for inspection. The check station operator will verify the identification of all harvested birds, as well as compliance with bag limits and other hunting regulations.

### Shotgun wads and other garbage

The littering, disposing, or dumping in any manner of garbage, refuse sewage, sludge, earth, rocks, or other debris on any national wildlife refuge except at points or locations designated by the Refuge Manager, or the draining or dumping of oil, acids, pesticide wastes, poisons, or any other types of chemical wastes in, or otherwise polluting any waters, water holes, streams or other areas within any national wildlife refuge is prohibited (50 CFR 27.94 a).

Shotgun wads and other garbage present safety, nuisance and environmental impacts. In order to maintain healthy wetlands and a quality hunting experience hunters must collect garbage from the hunting blind area.

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