

# Hunter Hotline

## May 2014

Greeting Everyone,

I sincerely apologize to everyone for not getting this information out to you sooner. We are extremely short staffed and are doing our best to keep up right now. The following are my notes from the meeting, if anyone has any questions please feel free to contact myself or Megan.

Due to this lack of staffing there are several things that did not get done this year and final season end stats is one of them. I can tell you that hunter numbers and bird numbers were down quite a bit, however, there were a few who worked hard, found the right place and had terrific hunts.

We are in the process of getting our Recreation Passes on-line for sale – yeah!! This will make life so much easier for folks; you just fill out your information, pay the fees and print out your pass. Price of the pass will still be \$25 plus a processing fee to the company. This processing fee goes to pay for the website and the service and allows the Refuge to retain the \$25 for the hunt program.

As for water, we are expecting Lower Klamath to be dry by July this year and it is unknown at this point if we will be getting water in the fall. The drought conditions are tough but managers for both agencies are talking so hopefully they can come up with something.

There are several recommendations on the last page of the presentation. Management and I have not been able to discuss these items yet, but I will let you know as soon as I know something.

Have a great summer everyone!!

If you have questions, ideas or comments about the hunt program please contact me at the Refuge at 530-667-2231 or send me an email at [stacy\\_freitas@fws.gov](mailto:stacy_freitas@fws.gov)

# 2014 PUBLIC HUNT MEETING



Tule Lake & Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges  
Tulelake, California



# Welcome and Thank You

Welcome to the Dave Menke Education Center

The Refuge management and staff would like to thank the volunteers from Cal-Ore Wetlands and Waterfowl Council for the many hours spent on habitat projects, wildlife disease recovery, mobility impaired facilities, and sign posting.

We would also like to thank Jim Rhodes and Bill Rutler for all their work on the hunt program as well as keeping our air boats in working order. And Dick Marcillac and Richard Vandenburg for taking on the signing projects on Tule lake





# 2013 Season Review

- No Season End Stats
- Government Shut Down
- Early Freeze, Great Ice Hunting
- Welcome Zack, New Law Enforcement

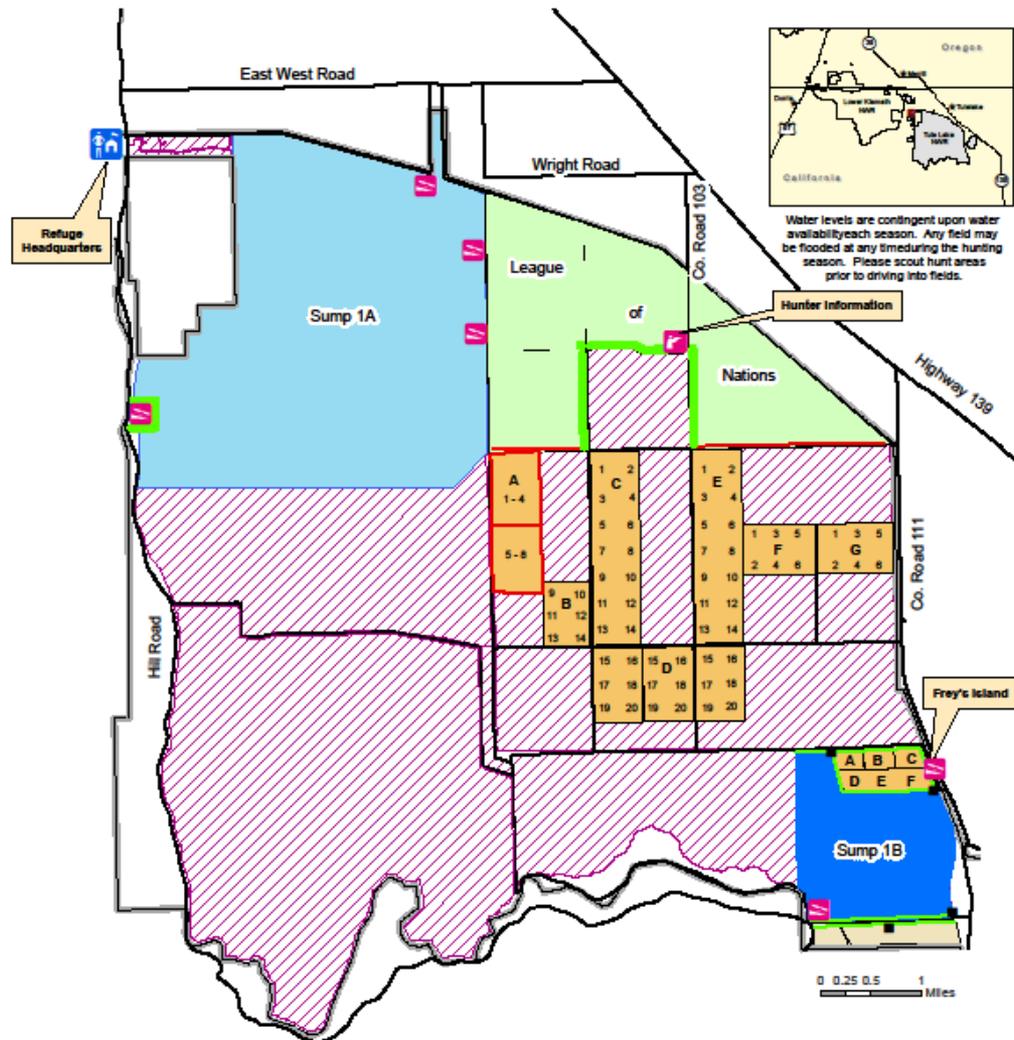




# Discussion

- On-line Pass Sales. . .Finally!!
- Opening Weekend Draw Extension
- 2014 Staffing
  - Looking for Volunteers
  - Will Staff Check Station ~ 6 Weeks depending on number of staff and volunteers
- Hunt Guides Extended 1 Season – Only Upon Request
- Recommendations for 2014
  - No Change to Spaced-blind Arrangement
  - Standardized Entry Time 5:00 (4:30 for Check Station)
  - Temporary Stop On All-day Hunts – Lack of Flooded Habitat

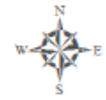




Water levels are contingent upon water availability each season. Any field may be flooded at any time during the hunting season. Please scout hunt areas prior to driving into fields.

### Tule Lake NWR - 2014 Waterfowl Hunting Map

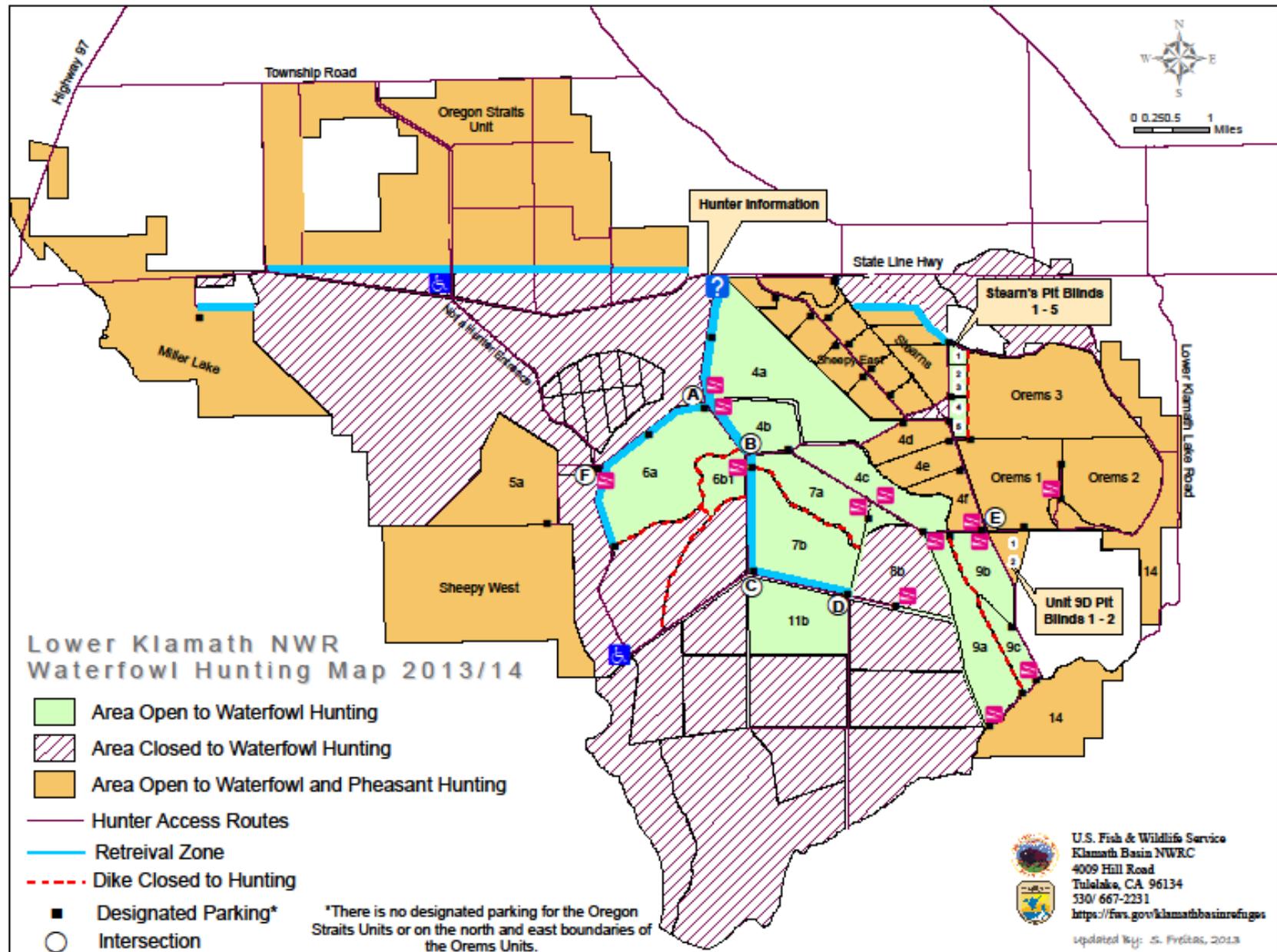
- Hunter Access Route
- Retrieval Zone
- Dike Closed to Hunting
- Refuge Boundary
- Boat Launch with Parking
- Designated Parking\*
- Daily Lottery Field
- Daily Lottery Marsh
- Free Roam Fields
- Free Roam Marsh
- Free Roam Waterfowl & Pheasant Field
- Area Closed to Waterfowl Hunting



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Klamath Basin NWRC  
 4009 Hill Road  
 Tulelake, CA 96134  
 530/ 667-2231  
<https://fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges>

\*There are designated parking areas for spaced blinds not shown on this map.

Updated by: S. Freitas, 2013



**Lower Klamath NWR Waterfowl Hunting Map 2013/14**

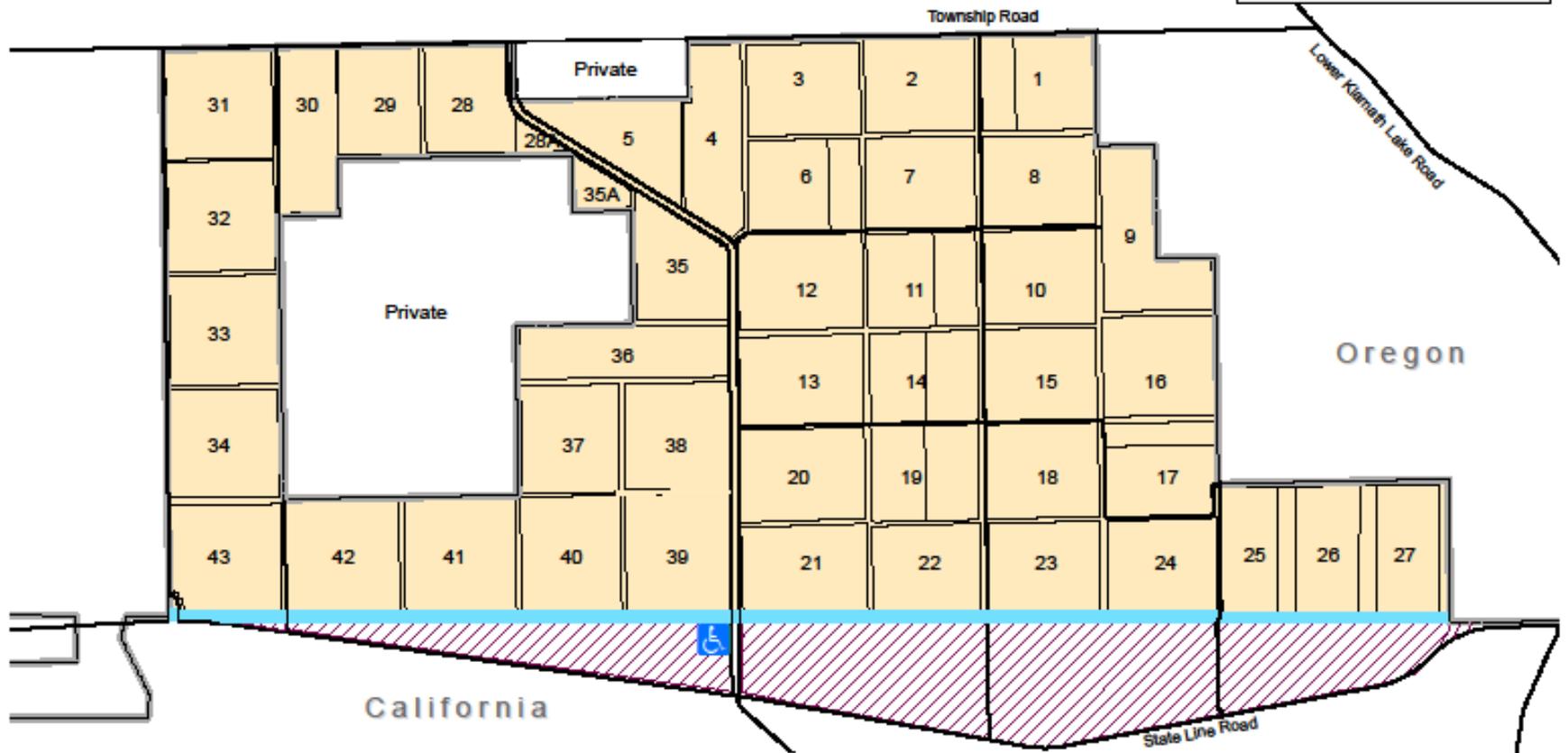
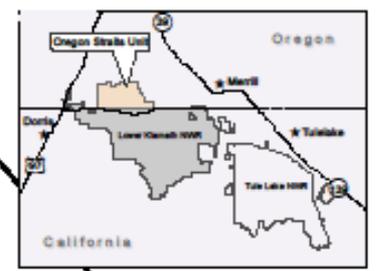
- Area Open to Waterfowl Hunting
- Area Closed to Waterfowl Hunting
- Area Open to Waterfowl and Pheasant Hunting
- Hunter Access Routes
- Retrieval Zone
- Dike Closed to Hunting
- Designated Parking\*
- Intersection

\*There is no designated parking for the Oregon Straits Units or on the north and east boundaries of the Orem's Units.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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# Lower Klamath NWR - Oregon Straits Unit

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Major Roads & Hunter Access Routes
-  Retrieval Zone
-  Mobility Impaired Blind
-  Waterfowl & Pheasant Hunting Permitted
-  Private Property
-  Area Closed to All Hunting




 USFWS, Klamath Basin NWRC  
 Lower Klamath NWR  
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Burning and flooding of individual units may occur at any time, please scout prior to hunting. Flooding is contingent on water availability each season.



# ○ Water Update

- How will the drought affect this hunting season
  - No walking wetlands on the Tule Lake side
    - Grain planted in lieu of flooded fields where able
  - Limited water on Lower Klamath, similar to last season
- Geothermal Project - Greg



## Notes and recommendations from participants:

1. Recommendation that the Refuge charge fees for all visitors Not just hunters. Will increase revenue for road and facility maintenance.
2. Added signage needed, particularly on A-dike to differentiate Waterfowl and pheasant hunting areas
3. Recommendation to reinstate ADA blinds in the TL fields, specifically For hunters who have problems getting up and down or in wheel chairs
4. Recommendation for more dry grain fields during the hunting season – delay Flooding until after season

