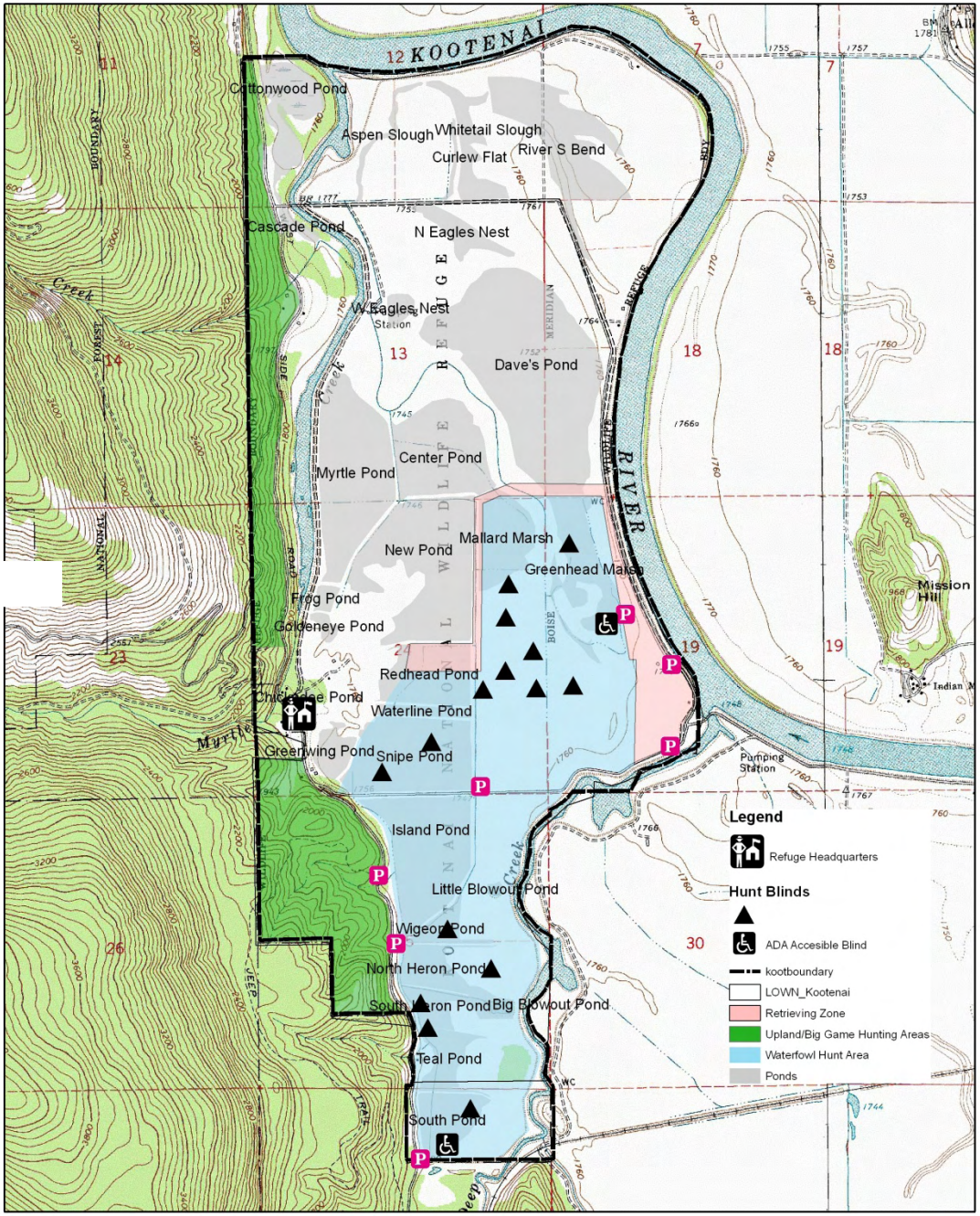
Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Map



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing

287 Westside Rd. Bonners Ferry, ID 83805• (208) 267-3888

Kootenai is one of over 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Compatible public use is encouraged on the refuge, including wildlife observation and photography; environmental education; and sport fishing and hunting (in designated areas, in accordance with State, Federal, and refuge regulations).

General Regulations

Day Use Only — The refuge is open during daylight hours only, except for hunters to set up blinds and decoys. Camping or overnight parking is prohibited.

Vehicles — Vehicles are permitted only on county roads and the Auto Tour Road. No ORVs are permitted on the refuge.

Dogs — All pets must be kept on a leash year round. Hunting dogs **actively involved with retrieving waterfowl during the regular waterfowl hunting season on the Refuge** will be exempt from the dog leash law.

Weapons — Guns or other hunting weapons are permitted on the designated hunting areas during the hunting seasons. At other times, they may be transported through the refuge in vehicles when unloaded and cased, or dismantled.

Fires — Fires are prohibited.

Littering — Please remove trash and empty shell cases from blinds.

Alcoholic Beverages — To prevent accidents, the possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited on all National Wildlife Refuges.

Accidents — All accidents and injuries should be reported immediately at refuge headquarters. Phone 208/267 3888.

Trails (Seasonal Closures) — Foot trails within the waterfowl hunting area are closed during hunt days, except to hunters entering or leaving the hunt area. Blinds should be accessed from parking areas within the hunt area (see map).

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Refuge Boundary — Entry is permitted only on designated access roads.

Waterfowl Hunting Only — The area behind this sign may be hunted for waterfowl only, as permitted by refuge regulations.

Retrieving Zone Only — You may pass through this area to get to hunting units, and to retrieve downed birds. Loaded firearms are prohibited.

Public Hunting Area — The area behind this sign may be hunted for big game or upland game as permitted by refuge regulations.

Public Fishing Area — The area behind this sign may be fished as permitted by refuge regulations.

Area Closed — This area is closed to ALL entry. No hunting, game retrieval, fishing, or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.

For Your Enjoyment and Safety

Prevent Hypothermia — Hypothermia can happen quickly in cold, wet weather—and in minutes if you fall into cold water. Wear wool and polypropylene in layers, with a waterproof outer shell. Hip boots or chest waders are essential for retrieving downed birds in wetlands. Beware of deep water in ditches, usually adjacent to dikes.

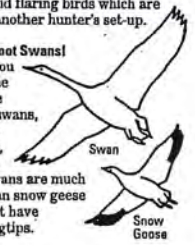
Judge Distance Carefully — "Skybusting" or shooting at birds over 50 yards away results in excessive crippling losses and reduced opportunities for good shots by you and other hunters.

Decoys and calls help bring birds into ideal shooting range. When setting out decoys, place the outer decoy at 40 yards from the blind. This will help you judge when to shoot and result in fewer cripples and more birds in your bag.

Use a Retrieving Dog — The use of a trained dog is encouraged. A good dog will quickly retrieve birds that otherwise might be lost, and also lessens disturbance to flying birds in the area.

Respect Other Hunters and Visitors — Respect the rights of others. Train your dog and practice duck calling before you come hunting. Do not shoot towards others or vehicles. When entering or leaving the field, try to avoid flaring birds which are working another hunter's set-up.

Do Not Shoot Swans!
Be sure you can tell the difference between swans, which are protected, and snow geese. Swans are much larger than snow geese and do not have black wingtips.



Entry — NO entry into waterfowl hunt area prior to 3 a.m. on waterfowl hunt day. (Area is closed to the public on non-hunt days.)

Special Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

Waterfowl Hunting Days — Waterfowl hunting is permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the State season.

Shell Limit — Hunters are limited to the use and/or possession of no more than 25 shotgun shells per day.

Retrieving Zone — Hunters may enter the posted retrieving zone to retrieve downed birds or travel to or from hunting sites, but all firearms must be unloaded. Decoys may not be set in the zone.

Blinds — Pit blinds are prohibited. A limited number of permanent blinds are available. Temporary blind construction or improving permanent blinds is limited to vegetation which will easily decompose, or to portable materials (wood, wire, camo material, etc.) which are removed at the conclusion of each hunt. Blinds do not become the property of the builder and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Personal Property — Decoys and hunting equipment cannot be placed on the hunting area prior to actual hunting. All personal property must be removed from the refuge at the conclusion of the hunt.

Boats — Waterfowl hunters may use boats without motors.

Persons with Disabilities — Consult the Refuge Manager for suggestions about ways to participate in hunting and fishing activities. Wheelchair-accessible hunting blinds are available; call the refuge office to reserve a blind.

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, physical or mental restrictions, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the Department of the Interior.

Fishing and Hunting Information

Fishing

Areas Open and Seasons — Only Myrtle Creek is open to fishing. Trout are the primary fish caught here. Open dates and bag limits are the same as the State General Season for rivers and streams in Area 1.

Licenses — All anglers 14 years of age and older must have a valid Idaho State Fishing License.

Boats and Flotation Devices — The use of boats, float tubes or other flotation devices for fishing or other purposes is prohibited on the refuge, including Myrtle Creek, except as noted under "Special Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations."

Hunting

Huntable Species — Only the following species may be hunted on the refuge:
Migratory Birds: geese, ducks, mergansers and coots.
Upland Game: blue, spruce and ruffed grouse.
Big Game: deer, elk, moose, black bear and mountain lion.

Hunting Areas — Hunting is permitted only in the two designated areas shown on the map in this leaflet. Migratory bird hunting is allowed in the southern part of the refuge east of Westside Road. Upland game and big game hunting is allowed west of Westside Road, except for the 1/2 mile No Shooting Zone near the refuge headquarters.

Seasons — Dates, hunting hours and bag limits for the species listed above correspond to the State regulations. For restricted days of waterfowl hunting see Special Regulations.

Licenses — All hunters must have a valid Idaho State Hunting license. Waterfowl hunters must also have a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) at age 16 and an Idaho Waterfowl Stamp at age 17.