



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hunting

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge

General Information

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge protects 30 miles of wildlife habitat along the lower Colorado River in Arizona and California. The 25,768 acre refuge is one of over 550 throughout the United States managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency within the Department of the Interior.

Stop at the Visitor Center for brochures, maps, and other information. The Center is staffed Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM year-round, and Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM from November 15 to March 31.

Report accidents or injuries to the Refuge Manager and State agencies. After hours, please call 911.

Hunting Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations that govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting is also in accordance with applicable state regulations and state seasons.

Visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department and California Fish and Game Department websites, www.azgfd.com and www.dfg.ca.gov, for more information about state hunting regulations.

- Hunters must possess a valid license for the state in which they are hunting. Waterfowl hunters are cautioned that the boundary between Arizona and California is not always obvious. Individuals hunting the main stem of the Colorado River should contact Arizona Game and Fish Department and/or California Fish and Game Department for more information.

- The following species may be taken on refuge lands during applicable State seasons: Gambel's quail, fox, coyote, ducks, coots, geese, white winged dove, mourning dove, deer (archery and general season), and desert bighorn sheep. Cottontail rabbit may be taken from September 1 to the end of the State Quail season. All species not listed are protected and may not be hunted.

- Hunting is permitted only on those portions of the refuge marked as such on the map on the back of this flyer. Note: the west half of Martinez Lake and north end of Ferguson Lake are closed to all public entry October 1-last day of February.

- Nontoxic shot is required for hunting ducks, geese, coot, doves, quail, and cottontail rabbit. Possession or use of lead shot while hunting on the refuge is illegal.

- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges 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).

- Field possession of game animals is prohibited in closed areas of the refuge.

- Neither hunters or dogs may enter closed areas to retrieve dead or wounded game.

- Decoys must be removed by the end of each day.

- Construction of permanent structures on refuge lands is prohibited. Temporary blinds may be used but must be removed at the end of each day.

- Target shooting, pit blinds, overnight camping, open fires, and collecting firewood are not permitted.

- Travel in wilderness areas is by foot or horseback only.

- Vehicles are permitted on designated roads only. All off-road vehicle travel is prohibited. All motorized vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles, and all operators must be licensed and insured for highway driving. Speed limit is 25 mph unless posted otherwise.

- All backwaters are no-wake zones.

- It is illegal to remove, deface, or damage rocks, minerals, semi-precious stones, Native American artifacts, paleontological objects, or objects of antiquity.

Watch Out

The desert can be dangerously hot and dry. Be sure to carry and drink plenty of water; use sunscreen, wear light colored clothing when possible and a hat.

Watch out for stinging insects, venomous reptiles, and thorny plants. Avoid putting your hands and feet under rocks or into crevices and plants, and watch where you step or sit.

For Further Information

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www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/arizona/imperial.html

August 2010

