

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kern NWR Hunting Program

GENERAL REGULATIONS

SPECIES AND HUNT DAYS-Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, and common moorhens) hunting will be permitted each Saturday and Wednesday during the state waterfowl season. Hunting of all other species of wildlife is prohibited. Pheasant hunting is only permitted incidental to waterfowl hunting in the Free Roam Areas (Units 1, 1A, 2, and 2A) each Saturday and Wednesday during the pheasant season. Pheasant hunting is not permitted on Kern NWR unless the Free Roam Areas are open to waterfowl hunting.

SEASON LENGTH, BAG LIMIT AND HOURS- Season dates, bag limits and hunting hours will conform to all current state and federal regulations.

LICENSES AND PERMITS-All hunters must possess a valid state hunting license. A federal duck stamp (required for hunters over the age of 16), a state duck validation (not required for junior license holders), and a Type-A pass (not required for junior license holders) are also required. A Hunting Information Program Validation (free when purchasing state duck validation) is also required. All hunters must carry their permit at ALL times and surrender them at the check station when leaving.

RESERVATION HUNTING- Reservation hunters will begin processing through the Hunter Check Station 2 ½ hours before shoot time in numerical order. Each reservation card issued from Sacramento will have a number on it that will indicate what order the reservation holder will be allowed to enter the hunt area. However, if a reservation holder arrives after his number has been passed, he must go to the back of the reservation line.

STANDBY HUNTING-Each party of standby hunters must fill out a registration card. Cards must be deposited in the registration box located at the check station two hours prior to shooting time. A hunter may only register one card a day. Two hours before shooting time hunt parties will be randomly selected by a lottery process to determine the order that parties will enter the area until all vacancies are filled. If a party is not present when their registration card is pulled, they lose their place of order and must go to the back of the line. As each party is called, each member of that party will enter the check station with their licenses, stamps, and day passes.

AREA CAPACITY AND REFILLS-Area capacity will be determined by total acreage of habitat flooded prior to the hunt day. Each hunter or party must select one hunting area only, i.e. either free roam, a blind site, or an assigned pond. Refilling of vacancies in the hunt areas will occur as hunters leave the area, until 2:00 p.m.

HUNT PARTY COMBINATIONS- Junior hunters will always be accompanied by an adult. Only the following combinations are allowed, Blind Site and Assigned Pond: A reservation shall assure entry for up to 4 persons total. The following combinations are only allowed; 1 adult hunter, 2 adult hunters, 3 adult hunters, 4 adult hunters, 1 adult hunter and 2 juniors, 2 adult hunters and 2 juniors, 3 adult hunters and 1 junior, 1 adult hunter and 2 non-shooters, 1 adult hunter and 3 non-shooters, 2 adult hunters and 2 non-shooters. Free Roam: A reservation shall assure entry for up to 6 persons. The following combinations are only allowed; 1 adult hunter, 2 adult hunters, 1 adult hunter and 2 juniors, 1 adult hunter and 1 non-shooter, or 2 adult hunters and 4 juniors.

HANDICAPPED HUNTERS - Two handicapped access blinds are available. If the handicap blinds have not been taken by reservation holders, the blinds will be filled by qualified hunters participating in the lottery drawing held 2 hours before shoot time.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

STEEL SHOT- Only approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed in the field.

SHELL LIMITATION- Each hunter shall possess no more than 25 shells while in the field.

SPACED BLIND SITES- Each blind site will be marked by a numbered post. All persons assigned to a blind must remain within 100 feet of the numbered post. All shooting shall be done from this location except when pursuing cripples. This means that it is illegal to shoot at free-flying birds from outside of the 100 foot limit.

ASSIGNED POND AREA- Hunters are restricted to shooting within the levees of the assigned pond. No hunting from levees.

HUNTER MOVEMENT- Hunters may return to their vehicles at any time. However, hunters assigned to a spaced blind may return to that blind ONLY between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Hunters leaving the Spaced Blind Unit after 12:00 p.m. cannot return. Persons who are finished by 11:30 a.m. should leave the hunting area quickly and check out so other hunters have the opportunity to enter.

LOADED FIREARMS- Hunters must travel to and from assigned parking areas and assigned blinds with firearms unloaded. Shooting off of dikes should be avoided unless it is from a spaced blind located on a dike.

PARKING- Each hunter must be parked in either Lot 1 or Lot 2. Firearms must remain unloaded in all parking lots.

BOATS- The use of boats is recommended for hunting Unit 1. However, motors (electric or gas operated) are NOT allowed.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

NO BICYCLES- With the fog and the two-way traffic for the hunt route, it is very dangerous to ride a bicycle.