



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ridgefield

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2021–2022

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. Waterfowl hunting is offered on approximately 760 acres in a spaced blind area on the River S Unit.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex
28908 N Main
Ridgefield, WA 98642

(Office under construction. No public access)

360-887-4106
Ridgefieldhunt@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Ridgefield>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

August 2021

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/eo/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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Access

Hunting days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, excluding federal holidays. See calendar for details. Refuge gates open 2 ¼ hours before legal shooting time and close no later than one hour after legal shooting time, or after the last hunter has left, whichever is earlier. There is no overnight camping on the Refuge.

Hunting is allowed only from designated permanent blinds with a maximum of three persons per hunting blind. Additional hunters are not allowed to join a hunt party after the party has checked in. Hunters must go to their blind immediately after check-in and stay in the blind while hunting, unless retrieving waterfowl. Hunters must park in designated parking areas, as identified on the map.

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 should make every effort to collect any garbage from the hunting blind area.

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National Wildlife Refuge Lottery and Recreation Fees 2021–2022

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Optional Reservation Lottery

Reservations are awarded through an electronic lottery system and give hunters first blind pick during the morning check-in. Reservations are not required nor transferable. Reservations lost due to a Refuge closure (dangerous weather conditions, safety issue, emergency, or government shutdown) will not be reissued or refunded.

The lottery application fee is \$1.00 per date selected, up to the maximum of 30 days. One application is allowed per person. Reservations for the entire season will be generated in one pre-season lottery and must be submitted electronically.

Accompanying payment must be received by mail or deposited in the fee collection vault at the Carty Unit trailhead by 3:30 p.m. on September 13th, 2021. Paper applications are not valid. Any payments arriving in the mail after this date and time, even with a postmark of the 20th, will NOT be accepted.

Find the application online at: www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html

Your application is not complete until payment is provided via cash, check, or money order. Once payment is processed you will receive an email confirming your application and lottery picks.

Youth Hunt:

On the annual Youth Hunt day, only reservations for youth (under 16) will be issued. General hunting will resume at noon with a lottery to assign any blinds that remain available. See the website for this season's Youth Hunt date and for more information.

Daily Recreation Fees

Daily fees are paid during check-in. Cash (exact change) and check only. No credit cards.

Fee per blind/per day:

Single hunter: \$10.00/blind

Hunt party of 2 or 3: \$8.00/person

Youth Hunters: Hunters (under 16) are exempt from paying the daily fee

Recreation Passes

Federal Golden Age/Senior Pass/Access Pass: Holders of these inter-agency passes are entitled to a 50% discount on both daily fees and season passes. These passes are not available for sale by the Refuge this year but can be obtained online at USGS.

Refuge Season Hunt Pass: \$100.00 or \$50.00 with a Senior/Access Pass discount. Not transferable to another hunter. Attendant will manage list of all payees for season.

Season passes can be obtained during blind check-in. Cash and check only. No credit cards. Exact change required or send payment with hunter na.m.e to Ridgefield Hunt, PO BOX 457, Ridgefield, WA, 98642.

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National Wildlife Refuge Blind Assignments 2021–2022

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Morning Hunt Blind Assignments

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 Sta.m.p, 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.

Blind assignments will be issued in the following order:

1. Reservation hunters (with up to two guests) in reservation order 1-15
2. Standby hunters by order of an on-site lottery system. All members of self-identified hunt parties (up to 3 individuals) must remain together through blind selections. Those who do not select blinds during this process may elect to be put on a waiting list for the 10 a.m. check-in.

Blind 1A (disabled hunters only)

If one or more reservation hunters qualify for blind 1A, it is offered to the party with the lowest reservation number. If blind 1A is still available after all reservation assignments, then it is offered to the eligible standby party with the lowest ping pong ball lottery number.

10:00 a.m. check-in

Refilling of vacant blinds does not resume until 10 a.m.. Check-in opens at 9:30 a.m. and closes promptly at 10:00 a.m.. An orientation and lottery will be conducted to establish the order of blind assignments. Hunters on the waiting list from the morning check-in have first selection of blinds that are available, with new hunters placed on the wait list after them. All hunters MUST be present at 10 a.m. to maintain their position on the wait list. Any hunters arriving after this check-in will select blinds on a first come, first served basis behind the wait line.

Switching Blinds

Hunters wishing to switch blinds must remove all gear from the field, report to the check station to check-out from the vacated blind, submit a Migratory Bird Hunt Report, and then ask about blinds available. Hunters switching blinds are not given any selection priority and will be subject to either the 10:00 a.m. lottery or any current waiting list.

A.m. Radio System

The Refuge uses a short-range A.m. radio system at the check station for the morning orientation and announcements. After signing in, remain in your car and tune into A.m. 1700 kHz, until your party is called to the check station for blind selection.

Covid 19 Safety Accommodations

Capacity under the check station awning is limited to no more than 3 hunter parties at any given time. Hunters are asked to give other hunt parties distance. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged while under awning, near check station staff, and anytime when social distancing is not achievable. Federal, State and local Covid 19 guidance may dictate future changes in procedures.

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