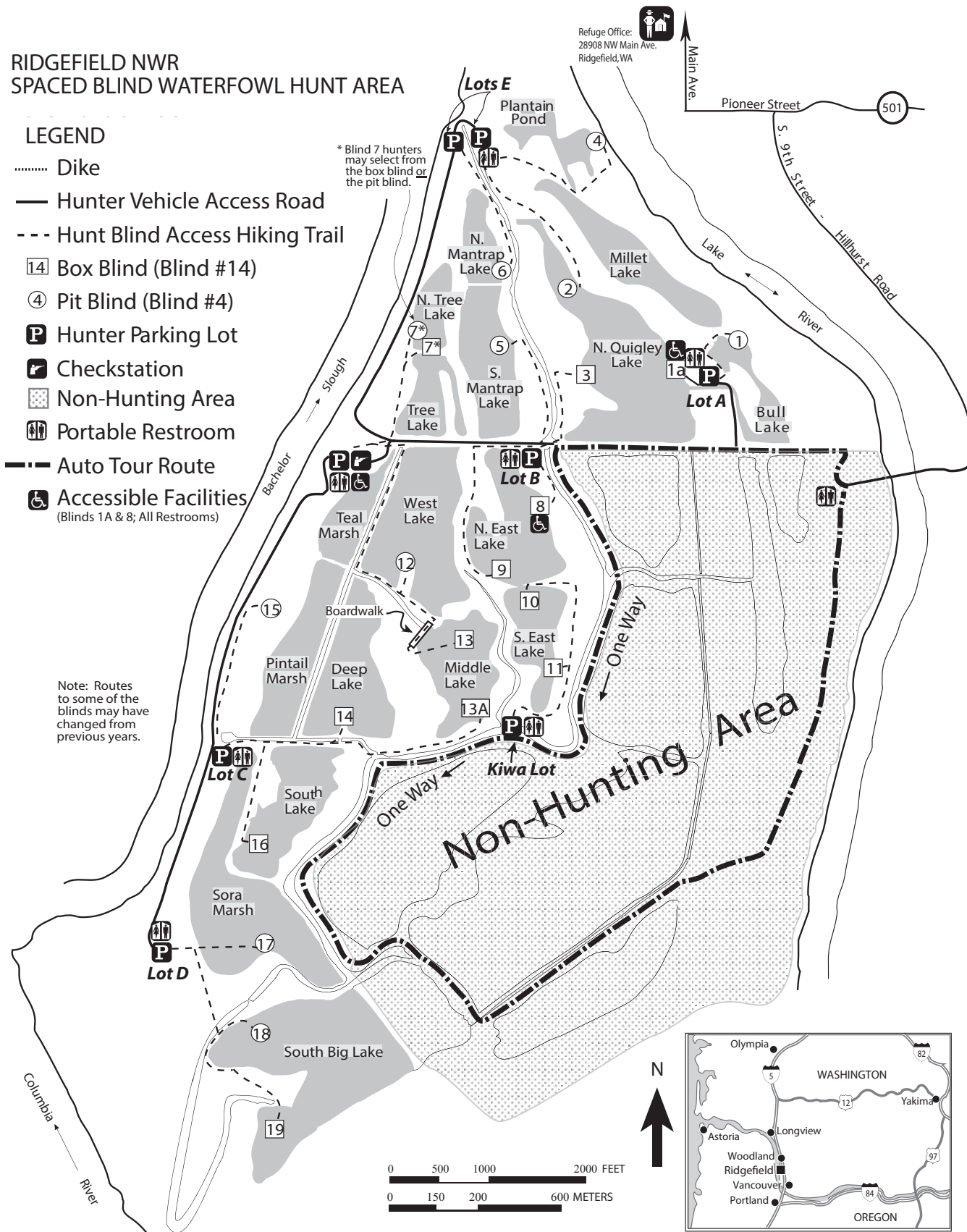


# Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Spaced Blind Waterfowl Hunt Area



# Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Hunting Regulations & Recreation Fees



Waterfowl hunting is offered on approximately 760 acres of the Refuge in a spaced blind area on the River S Unit. This program is run in accordance with State and Federal regulations, and subject to Refuge specific conditions.

See state regulations at: [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations)  
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.

### General Information

• **Species open to hunting** – duck, goose, and coot ONLY.

**Note:** 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. If you are coming to the Refuge specifically to hunt geese, the Refuge's Hunter Hotline at (360) 571-2015 will announce emergency closures of the Refuge's goose season. Duck hunting will continue on the Refuge regardless of a goose hunting closure.

• **Hunting Days** - Hunting days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the regular state season, excluding any federal holidays occurring on those days. See calendar for details.

• **Hours** – Refuge gates will open two hours before legal shooting time. There is no overnight camping on the Refuge. Any hunters wanting to participate in the morning hunt must sign in at the check station no later than 1 hour and 45 minutes before legal shoot time. There is no 10 am check in on Tuesdays or Thursdays. It is offered Saturdays only. (See **NEW 2019-2010 Check station Operations**)

• **Firearms & Ammunition** – Weapons must be unloaded except at blinds or while retrieving crippled birds. Only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed while hunting.

• **Dogs** – The use of a trained retriever is encouraged 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.

• **Injuries/Accidents** – Any injuries or accidents occurring on the Refuge must be reported immediately to the check station staff or to the Refuge Manager. Please, also promptly report any hazardous conditions requiring attention.

### Check Station Operations

Please remember to bring all the appropriate information with you such as your hunting license, Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (Duck Stamp), and cash or check for your daily fee. All hunters are responsible for knowing all applicable WA state regulations pertaining to waterfowl hunting. Check station staff do not sell WA state license components.

• **Morning Sign-In** - Gates leading into the hunt area will open at least two hours before legal shoot time. All hunters participating in the morning hunt must be signed in at the hunter check station no later than 1 hour and 45 minutes before legal shoot time. Hunters must be present to be signed in.

Those arriving after this time forfeit their chance to participate in the morning blind assignments. This includes both reservation and lottery hunters.

### New Process for 2019-2020 Season

#### Tuesday and Thursday Hunt Days:

Due to weekday construction activities on the River S Bridge, hunter access will be limited on weekdays. **On Tuesday and Thursday, blind assignments for both reservation and standby hunters will only occur 1 hour and 45 minutes prior to official hunt hours.** Hunters assigned to a blind may exit the River S Unit at any time up to 1 hour past official hunting hours.

Please exercise caution driving through the construction area and anticipate potential construction delays up to an hour when exiting the Refuge during work hours. Hunters unsuccessful in morning blind assignments must leave the River S Unit by 7:00 am to accommodate bridge construction activities. To limit construction delays, no access to the River S Unit will occur after the morning blind assignments.

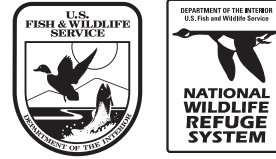
**Therefore on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the only opportunity to for a blind assignment is at 1 hour and 45 minutes before official hunting hours.** Please note that the River S Bridge is a construction zone and only vehicle access is allowed through the construction zone. No pedestrian access is allowed on or near the bridge.

#### Saturday Hunt Days:

Typical hunter access resumes on Saturday with blind assignments at 1 hour 45 minutes before official hunting hours and again starting at 10:00 am.

# Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Check Station Operations & Hunt Blind Area



### Check station Operations continued...

• **Orientation/ Announcements** - At 1 hour 45 minutes before legal shoot time, the hunter check station operator will close the sign-in period and start the orientation. Those not signed in do not get to participate in the early blind assignment. There are no blind assignments at or after 10 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Blind selection begins after the orientation.

• **Reservation Hunter Check-in** - Reservation hunters will select blinds first in order of their reservation number (lowest number first). Reservation hunters will be allowed a maximum of two guests. Guests do not need a reservation, however they must be present and checked in on time.

• **Stand-by Hunter Lottery** - After the reservation hunters have selected their blinds, the remaining unoccupied blinds will be filled by standby hunters through a ping pong ball lottery. Each hunter party of three or less will be issued a number that coincides with a numbered ball. To keep the lottery odds fair, these self-identified parties are binding through blind selection.

### Saturdays Only - 10 am draw not available on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Standby hunters who are not drawn before blinds are filled to capacity, or those who do not want the blinds that are available can be placed on the 10 am waiting list. Prompt attendance at the 10 am check-in is required to ensure this placement. **This option is NOT available Tuesdays and Thursdays this season due to weekday bridge construction.**

#### • 10:00 am Check-In (Saturdays Only)

Refilling of unoccupied blinds will only be allowed after 10:00 a.m. Hunters on the waiting list from the morning check-in have first selection of blinds that are available at and after the 10 am refill time. These waiting list hunters **MUST** be present at 10 am to maintain their position of the waiting list.

Promptly at 10 am another orientation and lottery will be conducted to establish the order of blind assignments for new hunters. These hunters picked will be placed on the wait list after early morning hunters.

After the 10 am lottery all additional arriving hunters will select blinds on a first-come, first-served basis behind the wait line.

#### • Checking In and Out of Blinds

The hunter check station operator will check your hunting license and duck stamp, collect your fee, and provide you with a Migratory Bird Hunt Report form. Once check-in is complete, you may proceed to your assigned blind. Please note, the Migratory Bird Hunt Report form is also stamped as your receipt, and must be carried with you while hunting.

When you finish hunting, and before leaving the hunt area, all hunters must check out at the hunter check station. You must submit your completed Migratory Bird Hunt 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.

### Hunting Area & Blinds

Ridgefield NWR provides a spaced-blind hunt area with a total of 10 pit blinds (in-ground) and 12 box blinds (above-ground). Maximum capacity of any blind is 3 people.

• **Disabled Hunters** - Two hunting blinds with wheelchair access are available (Blind 1A and Blind 8). We reserve Blind 1A for exclusive use by disabled hunters possessing a Federal Access Pass or State Disabled Hunter Placard (*see State regulations*). This blind may also be occupied by hunters or non-hunters who are assisting the disabled hunters. 1A is assigned during either the reservation hunter or standby hunter process, whichever is applicable. Please notify the check station operator during hunter sign-in if you are requesting use of Blind 1A. Blind 8, although accessible, is not reserved for disabled hunters, and is assigned along with all other blinds during the normal process.

• **Hunting From the Blind** - Hunting is only allowed from the assigned blind. Hunters must go to their blind immediately and stay in the blind while hunting, unless retrieving waterfowl. Additional individuals may not join a hunt party after the blind has been assigned.

• **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 ask about blinds available for reassignment. Hunters switching blinds will be subject to either the 10:00 am lottery (only available on Saturdays) or any current waiting list. Hunters switching blinds are not given any selection priority over parties waiting for a hunting opportunity.

### Fall Orientation/ Volunteer Work Party

Our fall orientation and volunteer blind preparation work party is scheduled for September 21, 2019, from 8 am-12 pm. This is the only pre-season opportunity to scout the hunt blinds. It is also an opportunity to volunteer to prepare the hunt area for the season. Those interested in volunteering for an end of the season work party should check the Refuge website for an announcement for this future date.

# Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Hunting Recreation Fees & Reservation Process



### Hunter Recreation Fees

• **Daily Fee** - A charge of \$10.00 per blind if hunting alone or \$8.00 per person (maximum blind capacity is 3), will be collected at the check station. Cash and checks are accepted and exact change is appreciated. **Credit card payments are not accepted.**

• **Golden Age/Senior Pass OR Access Pass** - Holders of these inter-agency federal passes are entitled to a 50% discount off the hunter recreation fee. This includes both the daily fee as well as the season pass. **These passes are only available at the Refuge office during regular business hours. Call the office ahead of time to ensure it is staffed.**

• **Season Pass** - Season passes are available for \$100.00 (\$50 with a Senior/Access Pass discount) and are valid for the entire waterfowl hunt season. They may be purchased at the check station or at the Refuge office. If you are hunting during the early morning hunt period, please let the check station attendant know you would like to purchase a pass before the blind selection begins. Passes are not transferable and apply only to the person named on the card.

• **Youth Hunters** - Youth hunters, (under 16) are exempt from paying the daily fee. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times, to which recreation fees do apply. During the Youth Hunt Day all hunting recreation fees are waived for supervising adults. Consult Refuge website and Hunt Season Calendar for more details about the Youth Hunt Day.

### Reservations

Reservations give hunters first blind picks during the morning check-in but are not required to hunt. Successful reservation applicants are randomly selected by a computer drawing. Reservations are not transferable. Reservations are valid until 1 3/4 hours before legal shooting time on the day of the reservation. Reservations lost due to emergency or weather related closures of the hunt area will not be reissued.

#### • Reservation Application Process

Applications are available by an electronic system at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl\\_hunting.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html)

**Reservations for the entire season will be generated in one pre-season lottery and must be submitted electronically by 3:30 pm on September 16, 2019 along with accompanying payment. No paper applications will be accepted. Only one application per person is allowed. Each applicant has the opportunity to apply for a maximum of thirty hunt days per season.**

Applications fees are \$1.00 per date selected (up to the maximum of 30 days) payable via cash, check, or money order to Ridgefield NWR Hunt, PO Box 457, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Application fees must be received in the office (not postmarked) by the application deadline. Payments or applications received after the deadline will be excluded from the lottery. When mailing in payment, please provide the name(s) of the hunters the payment is to be applied to. A print out of your application is not necessary.

### Instructions for Reservation Application Process

The application is online at:

[www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl\\_hunting.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html)

After filling out the Google Form electronically, press SUBMIT. You will receive a confirmation of us receiving your application via the email you provided. It will show you what information you inputted in the Google Form Reservation Application. If your confirmation email does not show check marks next to the dates you selected, please try opening on a different browser or device before calling the office with questions regarding your application.

Please provide your accompanying payment with the name(s) of the hunter(s) the payment is to be applied to:

Mailing Address:  
Ridgefield NWR Hunt  
PO Box 457  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

OR

Drop off In Person:  
Ridgefield NWR Office  
Carty Unit  
28908 N Main St  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

*Please note, as previously stated: For the 2019-2020 Hunt Season, due to weekday construction activities on the River S Bridge, hunter access will be limited on weekdays. On Tuesday and Thursday, blind assignments for both reservation and standby hunters will only occur 1 hour and 45 minutes prior to official hunt hours. There are no blind assignments on Tuesdays and Thursdays on or after 10 am.*

### Contact Info:

For after hours and weekends, please call the refuge hunter hotline for the most up to date info. at 360-571-2015.

The hunter hotline will also announce emergency and weather related closures of the hunt area. Refuge Hunt Info. available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/Ridgefield-Hunt>