

# 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. Those arriving later will not be able to refill blinds until the 10 am check in. (See Check station Operations)

- **Firearms, Ammunition & Shell Limits** – 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. Hunters are limited to the use or possession of 25 shells per day for 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.

### 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 holder of the card.

- **Youth Hunters** - Youth hunters, 15 years of age or younger, 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 for more details about youth hunt day.

### 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.

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### Hunting Area & Blinds continued

• **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 a.m. lottery or any current waiting list. Hunters switching blinds are not given any selection priority over parties waiting for a hunting opportunity.

### 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. Please allow yourself enough time to safely travel the 1.5 miles from the Refuge entrance to the check station at 15 mph, potentially stopping at the train tracks.

• **Orientation/Announcements** - At 1 hour and 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 and are subject to the 10 am lottery. Blind selection will begin 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.

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.

• **10:00 am Check-In**

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.

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## Hunting Regulations & Recreation Fees



### Reservation Application Process

Applications are available online 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 3:30PM on September 21, 2018. 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 Submitting an Application:

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.

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

- **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.

2018-2019 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Season Calendar			
	Tuesday	Thursday	Saturday
October			13 D/G
	16 D/G	18 D/G	20 D/G
	23 D/G	25 D/G	27 D/G
	30 D		
November		1 NO HUNTING	3 **Youth Hunt Day
	6 D	8 D	10 D
	13 D	15 D	17 D
	20 D	22 HOLIDAY	24 D/G
	27 D/G	29 D/G	
December			1 D/G
	4 D/G	6 D/G	8 D/G
	11 D/G	13 D/G	15 D/G
	18 D/G	20 D/G	22 D/G
	25 HOLIDAY	27 D/G	29 D/G
January	1 HOLIDAY	3 D/G	5 D/G
	8 D/G	10 D/G	12 D/G
	15 D	17 D	19 D
	22 D	24 D	26 D

\*\*Youth Hunt Day: Only youth hunters (under 16) will be issued reservations for the morning hunt (see website for details). General public hunting resumes at noon with a ping pong ball lottery to determine blind assignments for unoccupied blinds.

NO HUNTING on FEDERAL HOLIDAYS/ November 1

D: Scheduled Duck Hunting Day  
 G: Scheduled Goose Hunting Day (Dusky Canada goose quota dictates the duration of the goose season).

### • Fall Orientation and Volunteer Day

Our fall orientation and volunteer blind preparation work party is scheduled for September 22, 2018. 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.

### • Contact Information:

For after hours and weekends, please call the refuge hunter hotline for the most up to date information at 360-571-2015. The hunter hotline will also announce emergency and weather related closures of the hunt area. Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Info. available at: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl\\_hunting.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html)

# Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Spaced Blind Waterfowl Hunt Area



### RIDGEFIELD NWR SPACED BLIND WATERFOWL HUNT AREA

#### LEGEND

- ..... Dike
- Hunter Vehicle Access Road
- - - Hunt Blind Access Hiking Trail
- 14 Box Blind (Blind #14)
- 4 Pit Blind (Blind #4)
- P Hunter Parking Lot
- Checkstation
- Non-Hunting Area
- Portable Restroom
- Auto Tour Route
- Accessible Facilities (Blinds 1A & 8; All Restrooms)

Note: Routes to some of the blinds may have changed from previous years.

