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

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.

• **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 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/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.

**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 Refuge gates that a disabled hunter will be occupying the blind prior to 10 am check-in.

**Hunting Regulations & Recreation Fees**

**Hunting 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 hunting 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 supervision 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.

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**Available Blinds**

- **Blind 7** – Hunted by the Refuge. Hunters may select from the box blind or the pit blind.
- **Blind 1A** – Accessible, 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.
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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 verify the identification of all harvested birds, as well as 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 a.m. waiting list. Prompt attendance at the 10 a.m. 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 a.m. refill time. These waiting list hunters MUST be present at 10 a.m. to maintain their position of the waiting list.

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

After the 10 a.m. 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.

- **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.

Lastly, hunters switching blinds may not join a hunt party after the blind has been assigned.

- **Reservation** - 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.

Waterfowl Season Calendar

**Instructions for submitting an application:** To download the application visit: [www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/waterfowl_hunting.html)

After downloading and filling out the PDF Application electronically, save it and please email it to: ridgefieldhunt@fws.gov

Please send in your accompanying payment and the completed application form by postal mail to:

Ridgefield NWR Hunt
PO Box 457
Ridgefield, WA 98642

**2D** hand deliver to:

Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit Office
28908 N Main St
Ridgefield, WA 98642

**2017-2018 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Season Calendar**

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[**2D** 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.]

**D:** Scheduled Duck Hunting Day

**Special Hunts**

- **Scheduled Goose Hunting Day (Ducks Canada goose quota dictates the duration of the goose season).**

**Other Notes:**

- **Fall Orientation and Volunteer Day**

Our fall orientation and volunteer blind preparation work party is scheduled for September 30, 2017. 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)