**McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge**

The McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge has a deep history and tradition on McFaddin NWR. Most hunting opportunities are in wetlands along bayous that cut through ancient ridge deposits which create coastal marshes and prairies. These habitats are home to an abundance of wildlife including migratory waterfowl. We recommend against going into the marsh alone until you are thoroughly familiar with the hazards. Some of the marsh is dangerously boggy and home to alligators, venomous spiders, mosquitoes, and snakes.

**Hunting Units on McFaddin NWR**

- Spaced Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area) with 28 Spaced Blind Hunt Areas. A maximum of four hunters per area is permitted.
- Star Lake Hunt Units also require a daily hunt permit.
- Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a $10.00 day use hunt permit.

**Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2018-2019**

- **Hunter Requirements**
  - All hunters entering a unit must be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl.
  - A maximum of 4 licensed, adult hunters per area is permitted.
  - Scouting will only be allowed from sunrise to sunset during October 19-25, 2018, prior to the state Youth Waterfowl Hunt on October 27, 2018.
  - Hunters are prohibited from entering hunting units prior to 4:00 A.M. and no later than ½ hour before legal shooting time. Hunting starts at legal shooting time and closes at 12:00 P.M.
  - Hunters 17 or younger must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
  - To participate in the state designated Youth Waterfowl Hunt, hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older. Adults are prohibited from hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunt. All hunt units are open during Youth Waterfowl Hunt.
  - Hunting parties must remain a minimum of 200 yards from other hunting parties and spaced ponds. Individual hunters within a party must remain within 50 feet from other hunters.
  - Permitted hunters must unload and clean shotguns while traveling in vehicles and boats on the refuge, Possession of firearms is in accordance with federal and state laws. Discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting is prohibited. Permit hunters must ONLY use or possess shotgun shells containing approved non-toxic shot, (Use or Possession of lead shot is prohibited).
  - Hunters may only possess 50 approved non-toxic shotgun shells while hunting; this includes shotgun shells within vehicles.
  - Vehicle travel is permitted on designated roads and parking areas only. Do not block roads, gates, trails, boat ramps or any other facility at any time. Hunting from a roadway is prohibited.
  - Use of plastic flagging, reflectors or reflective tape is prohibited on the refuge.
  - Use of retriever dogs is encouraged when, however, not engaged in authorized hunting activities all dogs must be under the control of their handlers at all times or on a leash.
  - All refuge lands must be kept clean during the period of use or occupancy. You must keep all refuse, trash and other litter contained in bags or other suitable containers and not left scattered on the ground or in the water at any time. All personal property, refuse, trash, SPENT SHELLS, marsh chairs and other equipment must be removed from the refuge daily.
  - Accessible hunting blind: Spaced Blind Hunt Area #11 is reserved for hunters with disabilities. It will become available to non-disabled hunters on a stand-by basis at 5:00 A.M. each hunt day. If any disabled hunting parties arrive for stand-by status Spaced Blind Hunt Area #11 will be automatically issued to that party.

**Permits are required for all hunters. This permit is valid only when signed above and must be carried with you at all times while on the refuge. Permits are not transferable.**

**Spaced Blind Hunt Unit (Fee Area)**

**Open for Hunting:** Regular Waterfowl Season dates.

**Closed for Hunting:** During Special Teal Season.

**Regular Waterfowl Seasons dates:** closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

**Star Lake / Clam Lake Hunt Unit (Fee Area)**

**Open for Hunting:** Spaced Blind Hunt Unit #5.

**Conservation Order:**

- **Star Lake / Clam Lake Hunt Unit** will be open Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

**Closed for Hunting:**

- **Regular Waterfowl Season dates:** closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Spaced Blind Hunt Unit** will be closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

- **Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day:**
  - Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a $10.00 day use hunt permit.
  - Hunters are required to check-in and check-out of the check station at the entrance to McFaddin NWR.
  - Check-in begins at 4:00 A.M. and all hunters must check-out by 12:30 P.M. Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a $10.00 day use hunt permit.

- **Hunters will designate their hunting area on a first come, first served basis on a sign-in sheet as well as by placing a sticker on the hunt map in the check station. Hunters will be required to remain in that area for that day’s hunt.**

- **Hunters access points via boat are at boat ramps located on the South-East end of Clam Lake, the North-East end of Clam Lake and the East end of Star Lake. Walk-in access points are located off of McFaddin Beach at Perkins Levee and the Brine Line. See map for details.**

- **Central Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area)**

**Open for Hunting:** Special Teal Season will be open 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season dates will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2019, the Central Hunt Unit will be open on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until February 24, 2019. Note: This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

**Closed for Hunting:**

- **Regular Waterfowl Season dates** will be closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2019, the Central Hunt Unit will be closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. **Spaced Blind Hunt Unit** will be closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. **Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day:**

**Central Hunt Unit** is located at the East and West of White’s Levee. Walk in access of McFaddin Beach is located at two hunter access points. See map for details. **Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is very remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist.**

**Spending Shell**

- **Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday:** Spaced Blind Hunt Unit #11 will be closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

- **Star Lake / Clam Lake Hunt Unit** will be closed Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. **Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day:**

- **Tuesday:** The Central Hunt Unit is located at the East and West of White’s Levee. Walk in access of McFaddin Beach is located at two hunter access points. See map for details. **Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is very remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist.**

- **Thursday:** Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

- **Friday:** Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

- **Thursday:** The Central Hunt Unit is located at the East and West of White’s Levee. Walk in access of McFaddin Beach is located at two hunter access points. See map for details. **Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is very remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist.**
Closed for Hunting: Regular Waterfowl Season dates will be closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. • The Mud Bayou Hunt Unit is located on the West End of McFaddin NWR near High Island, TX. Walk-in access off of McFaddin Beach is located at three hunter access points: Middleton Levee, Mud Lake Levee and the Brush Line. See map for details. Driving accessibility on McFaddin Beach is very remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist. Use extreme caution! Boat access to the interior waterways of the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit is available off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Access to the interior of the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit prior to 4:00 A.M. is prohibited. Hunting closes at 12:00 P.M. and hunters must out of the hunt unit by 12:30 P.M.

Signs and Boundaries
The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.

National Wildlife Refuge. This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.

Area Closed. Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.

No Hunting Zone. This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.

Public Hunting Area. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

Waterfowl Hunting Only. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it. All visitors are subject to inspection.

Central Hunt Unit is available off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Use of a winch or boat rollers is necessary for access to the Central Hunt Unit off of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Access to the interior of the Central Hunt Unit prior to 4:00 A.M. is prohibited. Considerable amounts of silt can accumulate quickly within the West End Cut Access. These conditions will vary over the hunting season. Use extreme care and personal light sources when entering into this area. Hunting closes at 12:00 P.M. and hunters must out of the hunt unit by 12:30 P.M.

Mud Bayou Hunt Unit (Non-Fee Area)
Open for Hunting: Special Trial Season will be open 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season dates will be open on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2019, the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit will be open on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays until February 24, 2019. Note: This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

Hunting is prohibited on McFaddin Beach is very remote and uncertain navigational hazards exist. Use extreme caution! Access to the interior of the Mud Bayou Hunt Unit prior to 4:00 A.M. is prohibited. Hunting closes at 12:00 P.M. and hunters must out of the hunt unit by 12:30 P.M.

Patterns in the sand can indicate wading bird activity and should be avoided.

Through access requires travel on beach. Travel is often extremely hazardous due to high tide, debris, wash-outs, and loose sand.

For More Information Contact
For inquiries about refuge programs and activities, contact the refuge manager at:
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McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 358
Sabine Pass, TX  77655
409/971-2909
409/971-2255 Check Station
409/971-2104 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/mcfaddin

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