

Hunter Hotline – October 20, 2020

More updates folks. . . .

- **Tule Lake NWR**

- Sump 1B will be open to hunt beginning Monday October 26. It will be open to five parties only; when water levels permit, we will open to all 10 parties.
 - Party selection is self-serve at the main office, same rules as the spaced blinds. No line up before 4:00 pm, at least one party member must be present, two people per party in line, social distance etc. . . . Anyone causing issues in the parking area or in the lineup will be dealt with by enforcement and will not be permitted to take a spot.
 - Water levels are extremely low and only visible in the open bay; please scout prior to launching boats.
 - Please be aware we continue to deal with disease issues in Sumps 1A and 1B. The Refuge is currently taking steps to confirm the type and source of the disease. We are making every effort to remove sick and dead birds prior to the opening; however, hunters may encounter sick and or dead birds while hunting. As a precaution, please do not allow dogs to retrieve any birds you have not shot. We will keep you updated as we know more.
- Tule Lake Marsh (Sump 1A) continues to be open; however, water levels are very low, please scout prior to launching boats.
- Harvest of contracted grain is complete at this time. There are several fields, which have not been harvested because of soil protection programs or coop trade. These fields will be open to walk-in hunting only; you may not drive any vehicles into these fields. We are currently discussing options with the producers to open up areas of these fields to improve access for hunters but do not have a time line at this point.
 - If you have question or concerns regarding hunting unharvested grain here is a link to the federal hunting and baiting regulations.
<https://www.fws.gov/le/waterfowl-hunting-and-baiting.html>
 - Due to fire, the second lot to the east of A Dike on the north side of the check station road has been closed. Once issues relating to baiting have been resolved, it will be reopened.

- **Lower Klamath NWR**

- Hunting will be available in harvested grain fields only; all grain fields in the hunt area have been harvested.
- As of this posting, the Oregon Straits fields are not scheduled to be flooded this season. This could change later this winter, please scout prior to field entry.
- All marsh units are still dry and will be closed to waterfowl hunting until further notice. At this time, water delivery is not expected until December. If water conditions and lake levels are good we anticipate approximately 11,000 acre feet delivered between December and February. Keeping our fingers crossed for some really great January hunting!!

We understand this is a frustrating time for everyone, please be patient as we are doing the best we can to offer a quality hunting experience in not so great of conditions. If you have additional questions regarding the hunt program or the upcoming season, please feel free to contact us by email at stacy_freitas@fws.gov or steven_jensen@fws.gov or by phone at 541-891-5208.