Opening Weekend Is Here!!

✓ Opening weekend – Opening day has been set for October 05 in both California and Oregon!
  o Results of the opening weekend drawing were sent out on September 10; if you applied but did not
    receive an email, please check your spam folder first.
    ▪ If you did not receive a response, log into your RecAccess account. You will be able to see your
      results there as well as print out your permit if you were drawn. In addition, double check your
      email address is correct.
  o Hunter Orientation meeting – will be held Friday October 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Refuge Visitor Center
    located on Hill Road.
    ▪ This meeting is mandatory for hunters who were drawn for the Oregon Straits Units and Tule
      Lake Fields who wish to draw a spaced blind.
      • Only one person from the party needs to be present.
  o What is considered a “field” or “marsh” for opening weekend?
    ▪ We have been receiving many questions about where folks can hunt if they received a “field”
      or a “marsh” draw for opening weekend. Here is your answer:
      • Lower Klamath Fields consist of any harvested grain field on the California portion of
        the Refuge. Grain fields may or may not be flooding.
      • Lower Klamath Marshes consist of any flooded unit with wetland vegetation (cattails,
        and other wetland plants). Some marsh units may not be receiving water, they are still
        considered marsh units but typically are not being used by birds so are not hunted.
      • Oregon Straits is considered a field hunting area, however, may contain units with
        mixed vegetation. The draw area is everything to the east of the main drain. Units to
        the west of the main drain are not part of the opening weekend draw.
      • Tule Lake Fields consist of the League of Nations, the spaced blinds, and the South
        West Sump. There is a variety habitat in these areas including small wetlands but
        primarily agricultural fields. Regardless of habitat, these units are considered the “field”
        area for opening weekend.
      • Tule Lake Marsh is Sump 1A; the northern end of the sump is open for hunting, the
        southern end is closed.
      • Sump 1B hunt area is the eastern portion of Sump 1B and is located below the Frey’s
        Island Units. This unit is entirely a flooded marsh unit.

✓ Changes to the Tule Lake Check Station drawings
  o Daily draws for the spaced blinds, Frey’s Island and Sump 1B will no longer be held at the Tule Lake
    Check Station the morning of the hunt.
    ▪ The drawing will be conducted at the Refuge headquarters at 4:30 p.m. each day beginning
      Saturday October 5 for the following day’s hunt. Hunters may come to the office to fill out
      party cards at 4:00 p.m.
    ▪ Drawing procedures have been posted on the website.
  o Hunt stats, hunt maps and other information will continue to be posted at the check station.

✓ Youth & Ladies hunts
  o October 12 and 19
  o All areas normally open to waterfowl hunting will be available to youth and lady hunters without
    reservation or drawing after 1:00 p.m. – some field units may be closed depending on crop harvest.
    Spaced-blind areas will be free roam.

✓ Recreation Passes
  o Passes are available on-line at https://klamathrefuges.recaccess.com/ as well as in the Visitor’s Center.
  o Outside vendors who will be selling passes this season are West Side Market and Kirb’s Outlet in
    Tulelake, and Parker’s Rod and Gun in Klamath Falls.
✓ Habitat Update

- Tule Lake NWR – The Tule Lake harvest has begun and is moving along nicely, many grain fields are finished. Currently we have three flooded units, two fields in the process of flooding, more are expected to flood as the season progresses. Please refer to the habitat map for locations.

- Lower Klamath – Grain harvest is a little behind this year, as of this date only one field has been harvested. We are expecting more as the month proceeds. Currently we have one sanctuary unit flooding and one hunt unit. We are receiving water and expect to have one more sanctuary unit started prior to the opening weekend. As usual this could change between now and opening weekend.

- The most current habitat information will be posted on our Habitat Map. The Habitat map is located in the “Maps” section of the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath websites (typically on the right hand side column at the top).

If you have questions, ideas or comments about the hunt program please contact me at the Refuge at 530-667-2231 or send me an email at stacy_freitas@fws.gov