



Frequently Asked Questions
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Waterfowl Hunt Program
 Updated September 2016

Q: How do I apply to get a hunting spot?

A: For the Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter NWRs you have three options:

- 1) apply for a reservation through Department of Fish and Wildlife:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/waterfowl/waterfowlresinfo.html>
- 2) register for the lottery the evening before the hunt day between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.,
- 3) obtain a first-come, first-serve number after 8 p.m. the night before the hunt day. Lottery procedures are posted at the check station and on-line at
www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/Hunting.html

Q: How many people can get on a reservation, lottery first-come, first-serve, etc?

A:

	Sacramento NWR	Delevan NWR	Colusa NWR	Sutter NWR
Reservation	4 individuals per reservation			
Lottery	4 people per card			
First-come, first-serve	Each person has to be present to receive a number. However, adults can get a number for a junior hunter.			
Adult to Junior Ratio	No more than 2 junior hunters or 2 non-shooters or 1 of each per adult			
What time do you begin calling reservations	2 ½ hours before shoot time	2 hours before shoot time		
# of Reservations Drawn (if 100% flooded)	-59 able bodied -3 disabled	-39 able bodied -3 disabled	-23 able bodied -2 disabled	-17 able bodied -1 disabled
# of Blinds or Assigned Ponds	-33 Blinds -10 Assigned Ponds -2 Disabled Blinds -1 Disabled AP	-15 Blinds -10 APs -1 Jr. AP -3 Disabled	-10 APs -2 Disabled Sites -1 Jr. Pond	-11 APs -1 Disabled Site
Free Roam Hunting Quotas when fully flooded	65	50	14 West 34 East	25

Lottery Purge

Q: Will any of the refuges have a lottery purge?

A: Yes, a lottery purge will be held at all of the refuges. The purge will be conducted the morning of the hunt at 8 am by check station personnel.

Q: What is a lottery purge?

A: A lottery purge is the process of removing a hunter's name from the lottery list at a specific point in time during the morning of the hunt. For example, at shoot time the check station staff may call all of the hunters' names that are still on the list. At this time hunters may request to remain on the list. If hunters do not respond their name will be removed from the list. This purge will help determine the total number hunters on the lottery list and their place in line.

Hunting Times

Q: When do lottery numbers begin to get called on the morning of the hunt?

A: 1 ½ hours before shoot time at Sacramento NWR and 1 hour before shoot time at Delevan, Colusa and Sutter NWRs.

Q: When do they stop refills for the hunt areas?

A: No entry permits are issued after 3 p.m.

Hunters with Disabilities

Q: If I have a reservation in the disabled reservation drawing, do I have to use the disabled hunting areas?

A: Yes, through a disabled reservation system you are limited to those facilities.

Q: Where can disabled hunters park/unload?

A: There are disabled parking lots set aside for every disabled blind or pond. Disabled hunters can drive to the blinds until they reach the "no vehicles beyond this point sign" to unload. Once they have finished unloading they need to drive their vehicle to the designated disabled parking lot.

Junior/Youth Hunters

	15 years old and Under	16 years old	17 years old	18 years old
Can participate in the in-season Jr. Hunts?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Can participate in post-season Youth Hunt?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Needs a hunting license and HIP validation?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Needs a Type A pass?	No	No	No	Yes
Needs a Federal duck stamp?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Needs a State duck stamp?	No	No	No	Yes
Needs an Upland Bird Stamp? (only if hunting pheasants)	No	No	No	Yes
Need to have an adult with them?	Yes, and the adult does not need a hunting license or day pass	No. Hunters 16 and 17 may hunt by themselves but may not be accompanied by hunters 15 and under. However during the in season junior hunts and post season youth hunts, all juniors/youth must be accompanied by an adult guardian have an adult with them.		No

Q: Does the adult whom accompanies a junior or youth hunter need to have a hunting license?

A: No

Q: If I am a junior hunter and I have a reservation for an in-season junior hunt through the Sacramento NWRC, may I bring a fellow junior hunter with me under my reservation?

A: If you get a reservation for the junior hunt at Sacramento or Delevan you may bring another junior hunter with you. Note: there are only two junior hunters allowed per adult.

Pheasant Hunting

Q: If I have a reservation and I want to hunt pheasants, which doesn't start until 8 a.m., do I still need to be there prior to waterfowl shoot time?

A: Yes, reservations must be presented at the check station at least 1 ½ hours before shoot time at Sacramento NWR and 1 hour before shoot time at Delevan, Colusa and Sutter NWRs.

Q: May I hunt pheasants from an assigned pond?

A: No, except on the first Monday of pheasant season. See the California Regulation booklet under the specific hunt area for more details.

Fees And Passes:

Type of Pass (for CA residents)	Cost	Notes
Type A 1 Day Pass	\$21.09	Jr. hunters do not need this
Type A 2-Day Pass	\$34.05	Valid for 1 hunter for 2 days or 2 hunters for 1 day
Type A Season Pass	\$156.60	
Reservations	\$1.34	Per choice
Resident License	\$47.01	18 and older
Junior Hunter License	\$12.45	17 and under as of July 1
CA Duck Validation Stamp	\$20.52	
Upland Game Bird Validation	\$9.46	Need for hunting pheasants
Federal Duck Stamp	\$25.00	

Q: Can I buy duck stamps and day passes at the check station?

A: No, nothing will be sold at the check stations.

Q: What kind of license do I need to hunt waterfowl?

A: Valid California hunting license, a California Duck Stamp, and the Federal Duck Stamp if you are hunting waterfowl anywhere in the state. You are required to have a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) stamp (you receive this with your license). You are also required to have a Type A pass to hunt Type A hunt areas, which includes Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter NWRs.

- Junior hunters (anyone with a valid Junior Hunting License) are not required to have a California Duck Stamp. However, once a junior hunter reaches 16 years of age, he/she will need a Federal Duck Stamp to hunt waterfowl.
- Nonresident hunters can buy an Annual Nonresident Hunting License or a Two-day Nonresident Hunting License. Both are available from most DFG License Sales Offices and some License Agents.

Other Common Questions:

Q: Can I bring son, wife, etc even if they are not hunting?

A: Yes, but it does count against the party's maximum number

Q: Does everyone in a hunting party need to be present to put in for the lottery?

A: No, one person from the hunting party can put everyone into the lottery as long as he/she has everyone's hunting information (name and Go ID #s).

Q: Do I need to be present during the lottery?

A: No

Q: Can I put in for the lottery at more than one refuge?

A: Yes

Q: Can I park in the check station parking lot overnight?

A: Yes—but only in a vehicle/RV (no tents). No open flames are permitted but you can have a portable gas stove.

Q: How can I apply for a reservation?

A: Reservations are processed through the Department of Fish and Wildlife and you may apply for them either online through the DFW website or at your local licensing agent. Reservations must be processed 17 days prior to hunt day you are putting in for.

For additional questions please contact:

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife:

Hunting License and Revenue Information: 916-928-5805

Hunting Information: 916-358-2900