



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Goose Hunt Information and Regulation Sheet

General Information

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) 2013 goose hunt will be held October 12th - November 14th concurrently with the beginning of the general waterfowl season for Saginaw County Goose Management Unit in the Southern Goose Zone. Refuge goose hunting takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The refuge provides 18 goose hunting zones for morning hunts only. See goose hunting zones maps for locations of hunting zones. A lottery drawing is held for zones each morning beginning at 5:30 a.m. at the refuge headquarters, located at 6975 Mower Road, south of Saginaw, Michigan. Doors open at 5:00 a.m. for registration prior to the drawing. All hunters must follow all federal and state waterfowl regulations as well as refuge specific regulations.

New For 2013

- 4 river hunting zones will be available on the Shiawassee River for the 2013 goose hunting season. Hunters will need a boat to access these blinds. See goose hunting zone map (zones 1 – 4) for river zone locations.
- 13 dry land hunting zones and 1 shallowly flooded zones will be available for hunting.

Pre-registered Drawing

Hunters for the first two days of the refuge goose hunt (October 12th and 13th) are selected through a random pre-registered drawing administered by the Michigan DNR. The application process can be found on the Michigan DNR web site www.michigan.gov/dnr under game species – waterfowl. Hunters who get a reserved hunt are notified by mail or can check the web site to see if they were selected. A list of successful applicants is provided to the refuge by the Michigan DNR. On the morning of the pre-registered hunts, successful applicants must be at the refuge headquarters in person by 5:30 a.m. to complete the zone selection process. Hunters failing to meet this deadline forfeit their reserved position. They still have the option to wait until all drawing procedures have been completed to see if any zones are left. If that is the case they may select a zone after all other hunters both pre-registered and standby have made location selections. In addition to being present in person at the time of the zone selection process, successful applicants must show the refuge staff a photo ID, hunting license and appropriate waterfowl stamps to register for the zone selection process.

Stand-by Drawing

Hunters wishing to hunt geese during the first two days of the season but were not selected for the pre-registered drawing still have a possibility to participate by filling zones of pre-registered hunters not at the headquarters in time to participate in their zone selection. The drawing for left over zones will take place amongst all stand-by parties immediately after the initial pre-registered draw.

Open Lottery Drawing

After the first two days of goose hunting at Shiawassee NWR, pre-registered and stand-by draw procedures are no longer in effect for the remainder of the season. Hunters wishing to take part in this program will be selected and choose their location under an open lottery drawing process. The drawing process requires all hunters to be present by 5:30 a.m. to register for drawing and follows the same procedures and regulations for all three types of refuge draws. These procedures and regulations are listed below under refuge specific goose hunting regulations.

All Federal and State Hunting Rules Apply. The Following Are Refuge Specific Goose Hunting Regulations:

1. Hunters arriving late to the refuge are still permitted to fill empty locations after the lottery blind selection process has been completed up until legal shooting time or after if the location will not disturb other hunters.
2. All persons wishing to partner with other hunters must do so prior to the draw. Hunters will be permitted in the hunting zones only as registered on the drawing application forms.
3. There is an access fee of \$4 charged to each person going into the field whether they hunt or not. The access fee is charged each day the person participates in the refuge goose hunt. There is no annual access fee for the refuge. Persons qualifying for the Federal Interagency Senior or Access Pass (formerly Golden Age and Golden Access) will receive a 50% discount on the daily fee.
4. No more than 4 hunters/party can occupy any designated hunting zones, and single hunters are permitted.
5. Zones 1 – 4 are river hunting zones. The zones are marked by reflective numbers and tape placed on posts on the south side of the Shiawassee River. The eastern boundary for zone 1 is the intersection of the Cass and Shiawassee River (a marker sign is not present at this location). Hunters will need a boat to access these areas and are encouraged to use the Cass River boat launch on M-13. Hunters will be permitted to hunt anywhere within their hunting zone (between the markers) but are not permitted to enter any of the managed units within Shiawassee NWR.
6. Zone 5 is a new hunting zone and consists of soybean stubble. Hunters selecting this zone will be allowed to hunt anywhere within the zone. A hunting bench will not be placed in this zone.
7. Zones 6 – 9 have winter wheat strips planted in them but do not have corn strips planted. Natural vegetation within these zones is present to provide cover for hunters. Benches will not be placed within these zones. Hunters selecting these zones will have the ability to hunt anywhere within their designated zone.

8. Zones 10 and 11 consists of strips of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat. Benches will be placed within the corn strips of these zones but hunters will no longer be required to hunt within 50 feet of the blind/bench. Hunters will have the ability to hunt anywhere within these zones.
9. Zones 12 – 16 consist of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat. Benches will be placed within the corn strips. Hunters are no longer required to hunt within 50 feet of the bench, but are required to stay within their designated strip of corn.
10. Zones 17 and 18 are shallowly flooded zones. Zone 17 was disked in summer 2013 and shallowly flooded. Zone 18 was mowed late summer and is a dry land hunting zone. Benches will not be placed within these zones and hunters will have the ability to hunt anywhere within the zone.
11. Hunters will be allowed to enter the refuge to access zones 10 – 18. Parking will be available north of zones 12 and 13. See map for portion of the road that will be open. Hunters are not allowed to access any portion of the refuge north of the parking along the wildlife drive. Hunters will exit the refuge by driving south along the road which they enter the refuge.
12. Legal shooting time starts one-half hour before sunrise and ends at 12:00 noon. Afternoon hunts are not available.
13. All hunters, whether they harvest a goose or not, are required to drop off their completed hunting permit at the designated “drop box” located at the refuge headquarters by 1:00 p.m. the day of their hunt.
14. Hunters are restricted to a ten (10) shell limit.
15. Dogs are permitted on the refuge during the goose hunt but must be under control of the owner at all times.

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