

# Hunting Regulations

MIGRATORY BIRDS	SEASON DATES
Geese	State Season
Ducks	State Season
Coots	State Season

Sport hunting is permitted on approximately 760 acres of Ridgefield Refuge in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations, subject to these special conditions:

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- **Species not listed above** are protected and may NOT be killed.
- **Hunting Days**—Hunting is permitted every other day during the State Season. (See separate calendar for available hunt days.)
- **Permit Required**—A hunting permit is required for each hunter entering the refuge before 10:00 a.m. on a hunt day. Permits are issued on a reservation basis in advance of the hunt day. Permits are not transferable. Applications may be obtained at local sporting goods stores or by writing to: Refuge Manager, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 457, Ridgefield, WA 98642. Applications are also available at : U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1309 N.E. 134th St., Vancouver, WA 98665.
- **Application Periods**—Applications for advance permits will be accepted only during three application periods. Applications will be accepted from September 1 through September 15 to hunt from opening day through November 10; applications will be accepted from October 1 through October 15 to hunt from November 11 through December 10; applications will accepted from November 1 through November 15 to hunt from December 11 through closing day. Applications must be post-marked no later than the last day of the application period.
- **Application Process**—Only one application per person will be accepted during each application period. Each applicant has the opportunity to apply for four hunt days each application period. Successful applicants will be randomly selected and 25 "Primary" permits will be issued for each hunt day. Each permit holder may bring up to two unnamed guests.

- **Alternates**—15 unsuccessful applicants for each hunt day will be randomly selected to receive "Alternate" permits.
- **Check-In**All hunters are required to check into the area at the check station, which will open one hour and forty-five minutes before legal shooting time (see State Regulations).
- **Blinds**—Hunters may shoot only from designated blinds. A drawing for order of blind selection will be held one hour and thirty minutes before legal shooting time for hunters with Primary permits. Hunters with Alternate permits will draw for order of selection of the remaining blinds immediately after all Primary permit holders have completed their drawing. Parties of two or three hunters may draw for a single blind. Hunters have a choice of pit (maximum two hunters per blind), box (maximum three hunters per blind) and natural (maximum three hunters per blind) blinds.
- **Recreation User Fee**—A daily fee of FIVE DOLLARS (\$5) will be charged for each hunter. This fee, which covers the special services of blinds and an advance permit system, is payable in CASH ONLY at the time of blind selection. Holders of Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports are entitled to a 50% discount of the recreation fee. If you are 62 years of age or older, and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, you are eligible for a Golden Age Passport. If you are permanently disabled, and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, you are eligible for a Golden Access Passport. Passports are available free of charge at the check station.
- **Spontaneous Hunters**—After 10:00 a.m., any hunter, with or without an advance permit, will be permitted to check in to fill any vacant blinds. *Spontaneous* hunters are subject to the same recreation user fee as hunters with advance permits.
- **Loaded weapons**—Weapons must be unloaded except at blinds.
- **Ammunition**—Ammunition used on the refuge must contain only steel (soft iron) shot. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- **Shell Limit**—Possession of more than 25 shells (one box) per hunter per day is prohibited.

- **Decoys and Dogs**—Decoys and calls should be used to bring birds into ideal shooting range. When setting out decoys, place the outer decoy 40 yards from the blind. This will help you judge when to shoot and result in fewer cripples and more birds in your bag. Use of retrievers is encouraged. A good dog will speedily retrieve your birds and lessen disturbance to flying birds in the area.
- **Check-Out**—Please close the lid on the blind as you leave, and pack out your garbage. Hunters are required to check out of the area at the end of their hunt.
- **Conduct**—Each hunter is expected to respect the rights of others. Interference with another's hunting, long-range shooting and unsportsmanlike behavior could be cause for immediate revocation of hunting privileges.

**Handicapped Hunters**—The refuge covers a variety of habitats including rough, uneven terrain, deep waters and dense stands of vegetation. Hunting difficulty varies by blind, and hunters should examine their own abilities and limitations before using the refuge. Handicapped persons should hunt with a partner and consult the refuge manager prior to the hunt for suggestions for hunting the area safely. One blind with wheelchair access is available.

**Injuries and Accidents**—occurring on the Refuge must be reported immediately to the Refuge Manager.

**Information**—Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1309 N.E. 134th St., Vancouver, WA 98665. Telephone: (206) 696-7796.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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# Hunting

## Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

### Washington



# Hunting Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

## Signs to Follow

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges every year. Millions! The impact of humanity descending upon refuges, if not regulated in part, can degrade these wildlands. Signs grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting refuge elements from undue human abuse. Please respect the following signs:



When this boundary sign is used alone on a post, it means **NO HUNTING**. You may enter the area only on designated access routes.



You may enter this area only on designated access and tour routes. You may not retrieve crippled birds. Loaded firearms are prohibited.



Used alone or beneath a refuge boundary sign. The area behind this sign may be hunted as permitted by refuge regulations.

