

2020/2021 WATERFOWL HUNTING RULES AND INFORMATION: WILLOW SLOUGH FWA

All time references are local time – Willow Slough FWA lies in the Central Time Zone

Reserved Draw

- Each year, hunters will have the ability to apply for reserved hunts before the waterfowl season.
- Sign up typically begins in the month of August, however be sure to check the Division of Fish and Wildlife web page for updated details: wildlife.IN.gov
- Reserved hunt days include opening weekend and then every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday until the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. Ten (10) spots will be drawn as reserves.
- Stand-by drawings will be held each of the reserved hunt days at 4:30 a.m. CT.

Daily Drawing

- A party consisting of two or three people must register at the counter before the draw. To register, all names must be printed legibly on the supplied card at which time a badge number will be assigned to the party.
- A lotto drawing will be held each morning of the waterfowl season at 4:30 a.m. CT.
- When a badge number is called, all members of the party must come to the counter and sign the waiver sheet for the zone or stake that they will be hunting.
- Each party will be issued a daily permit card. Daily permit cards must be filled out and placed in one of the drop boxes after the hunt. Failure to submit harvest can lead to being expelled from the property.

Zone Hunting

- When choosing to go to the hunting zones, a party will be asked at the draw to place a dot on a map of roughly where they are going. This gives higher choice preference as to where to set up.
- A party must hunt together, they cannot hunt separate locations.
- Multiple parties can hunt together as long as all parties are in agreement.
- Parties must hunt a minimum of 150 yards from one another and 75 yards from the zone dividing line.
- Once set up, you cannot switch locations.

Front of the Lake (Zone Hunting) – Hunted Daily

- The front of the lake is broken into two zones, North and South. Each zone will have four parties.
- Buoy markings: Two red lines: Waterfowl Resting Area – No Hunting
Two yellow lines: Waterfowl Resting Area during September season only – No Hunting
Two green lines: Zone boundary – Must hunt 75 yards from line
- Buoys may have more than one color marking (Ex. A corner of the zone boundary at the edge of a waterfowl resting area 2 Red/2 Green).
- Parties in the South Zone are not allowed to hunt from the fishing pier (earth berm by picnic area) or set decoys on it. Hunters must be 75 yards away from the fishing pier.
- Parties hunting the front of the lake will launch their boats at the main boat ramps at the headquarters.

Back of the Lake or Marsh (Zone Hunting) – Hunted Daily

- The back of the lake is broke into two zones, Zone 1 and Zone 2.
- Two parties will be allowed in each zone.
- A series of red reflectors indicates the resting area line. Hunters can hunt up to this line, but cannot go past it at any point.
- A series of green reflectors indicates the line separating the zones. Parties must be 75 yds from the zone line.

Pool Units (Zone Hunting) -

- A series of 16 pools are available to hunt.
- Pools are defined by ditches or levees.
- Hunters can hunt anywhere within their Pool, but must be a minimum of 50 yards from the pool boundaries.
- One party per Pool with the exceptions of Pool 8 and Pool 12 in which two parties are allowed.

For the 2020/21 hunting season

- Pools will be hunted on a three day rotation. Pools 1-8 will be a group and Pools 9-15 in another.
- For Pools 1-8, the rotation will be as if it were hunted on second day of the season and then every three days after that.
- For Pools 9-16, the rotation will be as if it were hunted on third day of the season and then every three days after that.
- Most pools are walk in only, small, portable boats can be utilized in some pools.
- Water levels may vary by pool, please ask about current conditions.
- If conditions allow, all pools will be hunted daily during the September Season.

Flooded Corn – Rookery and Salisbury Units (Stake Hunting) – Hunting Hours 10:00 am. to Sunset

- The corn units are hunted every third day (if water conditions allow for it). Rotation will be as if it were hunted on opening day and then every three days through the remainder of the season.
- Once opened, hunting will continue through the rest of the season.
- Corn will be hunted the last two days of the each season and hunting hours may be altered.
- The corn units have a series of stakes for hunters to choose from: Rookery (4 stakes), Salisbury: (6 stakes).
- Hunters must hunt within 25 yards of the stake.
- Management may adjust stake locations depending on condition of corn near stakes.
- Please take care to not knock down large quantities of corn. Preserve the cover.

TNC – Kankakee Sands (Walk-in Hunting) -

- Water levels fluctuate drastically so scouting before hunting on TNC is always a good idea.
- One party will be allowed to go to each of the following managed hunting units daily. These units are Unit L, Unit J, Unit K, Highway Pond, and Great Lakes Pond.

Special September Season Rules

- **Shooting time for teal begins at sunrise**, shooting time for geese begins ½ hour before sunrise. Shooting time for both ends at noon.
- The hunting area on the front of the lake is enlarged in September – Two (2) additional parties will be added to the north zone, one (1) additional party will be added to the south zone.
- Waterfowl resting areas are marked by two yellow stripes on buoys.

Youth & Veterans Hunt

- Draw time will be at 5:00 a.m. CT.
- Eligible hunters may enter the draw as individuals or in parties of two or three.
- No preference will be given to youth or veterans hunters. All will be managed as equals.
- Veterans must carry a form of documentation of service. (Military ID Card, Retirement Card, DD214, DA31, etc)
- If observers assist in the hunt (call, place decoys, etc.), they must be licensed but they may not shoot or harvest game.

OTHER GENERAL REGULATIONS

- **Willow Slough has a 25 shell limit during all regular waterfowl seasons. Hunters may pass through the Waterfowl Resting Area located by the Headquarters; no entry is allowed in the other Waterfowl Resting Areas.**
- **All blinds must be constructed from natural materials located on site if not attached to a boat.**
- If non-native vegetation is used for camo, the seed heads must be removed before entering the property. Examples include phragmites, purple loosestrife, and reed canary grass.
- Management reserves the right to alter shooting schedule with 24 hour notice. Notice will be posted at headquarters.(Example: Season Ending Hard Freeze)
- If using a boat, you must have wearable PFD's (life preservers).
- All state and federal hunting regulations are in effect.
- All vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas. Driving off county roads is strictly prohibited.
- Hunters failing to report game harvested or who violate these general regulations or applicable state or federal regulations will forfeit their right to hunt on this property. (Harvest can be reported by calling the property as a secondary option within 24 hours.)

For the 2020/21 hunting season

PARKING LOT ETIQUETTE

- Please stage boats before going to the ramps. Only go to the ramp if you are ready to launch or load your boat
- Once loaded, pull away from the ramp before securing and stowing gear.
- Leave room for people to swing trailers near the ramps.