



## STANISLAUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

### WOODWARD RESERVOIR MODESTO RESERVOIR

# WATERFOWL HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS

## 1. WATERFOWL BLIND DRAW PROCEDURES

The waterfowl registration will begin at 12:00AM on Sunday, June 26, 2022 and will end at 11:59pm on Sunday July 24, 2021. The waterfowl draw will occur electronically on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

The winners of the draw will pin on Saturday August 14, 2020 at Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs in priority order to select a floating waterfowl blind site. To be eligible to participate in this draw:

- a. All draw registrants **must be 18 years of age**, possess a valid picture identification card (i.e. state identification card or driver's license) **and** a current valid California Hunting License in the registrant's name. School identification cards are not permissible. These items **must** be available for verification at the time of selecting a waterfowl blind site. If appropriate documentation is not provided **or** the documentation does not match what was provided on the draw registration card, the registrant will **not** be eligible to secure a waterfowl blind site if drawn, and the draw registration fee will **not** be refunded.

- b. Complete the online registration and payment before July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**(Please note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, COVID-19, or construction plans, a reservoir may be closed and, thus, unavailable for waterfowl hunting season with no refunds. The Department will provide park closure information prior to registration.)**

- c. Payment in the amount of \$45.00 must be paid to Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation during the registration process. This registration fee is **non-refundable**. We cannot accept cash or check payment as payments must be made during the registration process online.
- d. Multiple Applicants can be linked to a single account, and paid for together. Each applicant must sign to agree to terms of draw. Each linked Applicant must have:
  - i. Name of Applicant(s)
  - ii. Phone number (s)
  - iii. Hunting License Number(s)
  - iv. Date of Birth

*(If the above information is not received with payment, the payment may not be applied to the correct application card)*

**Please Note:** Payment will only be accepted through the registration website. No cash or check payment can be accepted.

- e. All registration applications must be submitted and paid by the cutoff on July 24, 2022
- f. The draw will occur electronically. The Microsoft program will randomly assign all registrants a number. Numbers are randomly assigned from 1 through however many registrations are received for each reservoir (example: 1 through 400). This is how the priority is set by the system (same as if the registration cards were pulled from the drums). This is done by an independent staff member in our Department who has no personal interest in the draw nor does this person know or is familiar with anyone participating in the draw. Woodward Reservoir has 16 duck blind spots and Modesto Reservoir has 20 spots. Through the random drawing, 19 names will be selected for Woodward Reservoir and 23 names will be selected for Modesto Reservoir. This leaves 3 alternates for each site in the case that someone does not show up for the pinning at the specified time.

- g. All randomly drawn names will be posted on the Parks and Recreation website and sites will be selected in the same order as the names are drawn.
- h. Site Selection – After all names are drawn and posted on the website, selection of sites will occur on:
  - a. Woodward Reservoir, **9:00am on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Woodward Reservoir.**
  - b. Modesto Reservoir; **1:00pm on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Modesto Reservoir.**
- i. **Only the registrants selected can attend the pinning of the map.** Prior to selecting a site, all selected registrants must provide a valid picture identification card or proof of age-eligibility (i.e. state identification card or driver's license) **and** a current valid California Hunting License in the registrant's name. School identification cards are not permissible. Selected registrants will also pay the fee at this time. If appropriate documentation is not provided **or** the documentation does not match what was provided on the draw registration card, the registrant will **not** be eligible to secure a waterfowl blind site if drawn, and the draw registration fee will **not** be refunded.
- j. The first name drawn **and** present at the time of the site selection will have the first choice of selecting a waterfowl blind site. The second name drawn will have the second choice and so on. A total of two people at a time per draw will be allowed at the pinning board for blind location selection.
- k. After all the registrants present have selected their sites, any remaining waterfowl blind sites will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis by the Director or their designee upon request, availability, and completion of the requisite application. All first-come, first-serve site pinning must be completed by Friday, August 20, 2021. Please call the appropriate Reservoir's entrance station to talk to the manager and make an appointment.

## **2. WATERFOWL BLIND PERMIT PROCEDURE**

If a waterfowl blind site is selected:

- a. The permittee must be a **minimum of 18 years of age.** The permittee is fully responsible for the waterfowl blind site and its occupants for the entire waterfowl hunting season. The permit is **non-transferable.** (Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.070A)
- b. A **non-refundable** waterfowl blind permit fee of \$400 will be charged. This fee allows the permittee unlimited entry and launch pass privileges for one vehicle and one boat during the season. (Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.050)
- c. A refundable **Blind Removal Deposit** of \$300 fee will be charged. The deposit shall be refunded to the applicant upon proper removal of the blind. (Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.050)
- d. Additional passes for vehicles and/or boats may be purchased from Department staff.
- e. No waterfowl blind authorized and constructed shall be rented, leased, or sold during the period while it is installed and placed at one of the reservoirs controlled by the County. It is the intent of the County to provide these permits for private use only, and any commercial use will result in the revocation of the permit and/or other penalties as may be provided.
- f. Waterfowl blind permits shall not be issued after seven (7) days prior to the opening of the waterfowl season. (Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.010E)
- g. Permits issued shall be valid from September 15th through March 10th during any fiscal year. (Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.010D)

## **3. WATERFOWL BLIND CHECK-IN**

- a. **No waterfowl blinds shall be permitted on any reservoir prior to September 16, 2022.**

- b. Prior to installation of his/her waterfowl blind, the waterfowl blind permittee must make an appointment for the inspection and check-in of said waterfowl blind. Call to make an appointment at least two (2) days prior to desired check-in date. Prior to season opening and during a designated period, all waterfowl blinds must be installed by appointment during daylight hours. All waterfowl blinds must be installed no later than seven (7) days prior to the opening of the waterfowl hunting season. To make the required appointment, please contact Department representatives at the following numbers:

Modesto Reservoir (209) 874-9540  
Woodward Reservoir (209) 847-3304

- c. Waterfowl blinds must be presented at inspection and checked-in **by permittee**. If the permittee is not present, the waterfowl blind will not be accepted for inspection or installation.
- d. Permittee must sign a **Hold Harmless Agreement** at the time of the waterfowl blind check-in.
- e. Waterfowl blinds presented to the Department for inspection at check-in must be complete. Partial blinds will not be accepted or be allowed to be placed into a reservoir. A waterfowl blind, when presented for check-in, shall have the following:
- A functional commercially manufactured **PORTABLE TOILET**. Department staff will determine the serviceability of the portable toilet. Hunters are encouraged to use the portable toilet to ensure the water quality of the reservoir is not degraded. A sewage dump station is available at each reservoir for convenient dumping.
  - All materials for construction, regardless of the type of waterfowl blind.
  - All sections of floating waterfowl blind, including floats.
  - All anchors that are to be placed to secure the blind.
  - Waterfowl blind permit numbers, no less than twelve (12) inches, must be **clearly visible** on two (2) sides of the waterfowl blind. Permit number color shall contrast with the waterfowl blind for best visibility above the waterline. (***Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.010C***)
  - All flotation devices must have the waterfowl blind permit number written on them for identification purposes in the event a blind capsizes or loses a float.
  - Decoys shall be marked with the owner's name.
  - Permittee must present a County permit and a current valid California Hunting License with appropriate waterfowl stamps. The stamps must be permanently affixed and initialed in accordance with State hunting laws.
- f. Seven (7) days prior to opening day (5 p.m. Friday), the waterfowl blind must be adequately disguised with brush for concealment of hunters and equipment, be structurally safe, and the inspection completed and signed off by Department staff and the permittee. Alterations to waterfowl blinds will not be permitted the week prior to opening day of waterfowl season.
- g. Any material added or removed from the blind during the course of the season must be approved by Department staff and recorded as added or removed from the check-in list. The permittee must be present to initial any changes on the list. [Also see 4-I]
- h. Brush cutting is prohibited in the recreation areas. Brush utilized in waterfowl blind concealment must not be deposited on any park property.

#### **4. USE AND MAINTENANCE OF WATERFOWL BLINDS**

- a. Once an authorized blind is installed at the designated point or location, it shall not be moved. Water level fluctuation will not be a cause for moving a waterfowl blind. (***Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.020A***. Violation of the provision shall be punishable as an infraction as provided in ***Stanislaus County Code Section 1.36.020***.)
- b. Any waterfowl floating blind that breaks loose from its moorings **must** be returned to its assigned location and properly anchored before it can be used for hunting. Any waterfowl blind that breaks moorings or anchor lines and poses a threat to the dam structure or creates a hazard may be removed

at the permittee's expense. The Department will not assume any responsibility for the damage done to the blind. If possible, the owner of the blind will be notified.

- c. A minimum of a 300-yard distance **must** be maintained between waterfowl blinds. Refer to map for specific details regarding potential exclusions.
- d. Waterfowl hunting is permitted only from registered and authorized waterfowl blinds. Hunting from boats (including boat blinds), islands or from the shoreline at reservoirs is **prohibited**. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.020B**. Violation of this provision shall be punishable as a misdemeanor as provided in **Stanislaus County Code Section 1.36.010**)
- e. Hunters shall make an effort to retrieve wounded waterfowl. **Only in the attempt to retrieve wounded waterfowl**, if it is necessary to discharge your weapon to render the **wounded waterfowl** immobile, the hunter may discharge his/her weapon from a boat while outside the blind. However, pursuant to California Department of Fish and Game §251, "the motor of such motorboat, airboat, or sailboat must be shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefore has ceased, and it is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled by paddle, oar or pole." Hunters shall exercise extreme caution and care regarding the discharge of weapons at all times, ensuring the safety and welfare of persons and property. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.070A.**)
- f. Cleaning of waterfowl is **prohibited** on any park property.
- g. All boats **must** comply with the Harbors and Navigation Code, and will be subject to periodic inspections to insure proper safety equipment is aboard. All boats must maintain current registration. Day-use decals are **not valid** on boats with expired registration.
- h. All hunters are required to pay appropriate fees or have the appropriate day-use pass. The day-use pass does not apply to dogs brought into the park and does not apply to camping fees. Separate fees for day-use, dogs, and camping are **required** upon entering the park.
- i. **AT MODESTO RESERVOIR: All dogs, horses, and pets are prohibited at all times. (Please report any violations to a Department staff immediately.)**
- j. **AT WOODWARD RESERVOIR: Due to the no body to water contact, all dogs, horses and pets are not permitted in the water during this season. (Please report any violations to a Department staff immediately.)**
- k. Each waterfowl hunter shall possess, or be with a person possessing, a valid waterfowl blind permit, or have in his possession written permission signed by the permittee of the waterfowl blind from which he/she will be hunting. Permittee shall provide copies of written permission to Director or his/her designee. Copies shall be kept in permittee's file. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.070B.**)
- l. Waterfowl blinds may be modified or altered with brush during the hunting season from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekends without an appointment. **However**, Department staff must be notified **in writing** in advance of the waterfowl blind number and type of brush that will be used.
- m. The Department will send a written notice to remove a blind to any permittee/owner that is not in compliance with all rules and regulations, or with any of the terms of the waterfowl blind permit. Any violation of rules and regulations or permit conditions may result in forfeiture of waterfowl blind location, hunting privileges, and revocation of waterfowl blind permit. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Sections 18.12.060 and 18.12.070A.**)
- n. If authorized Department personnel find that required waterfowl blind standards have not been met, the permittee shall have 48 hours after notification to correct identified deficiencies. If deficiencies are not corrected within 48 hours the **permit may be revoked**. No hunting will be allowed from the waterfowl blind until all identified deficiencies have been corrected and approved in writing by the Director or his/her designee. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Sections 18.12.020 and 18.12.070A.**)

- o. Operation of any and all watercraft in the area between the buoys and the water quality wall at Woodward Reservoir is punishable by a \$500 fine. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.20.040 Misdemeanor designated**)

**5. REMOVAL OF WATERFOWL BLIND AND DEPOSIT REFUND**

To be eligible to receive a refund of the deposit:

- a. Permittee **must** schedule a removal inspection with Department representative to check-out at least two (2) days prior to check-out.
- b. The waterfowl blind **must** be completely removed from the recreation area no later than March 8th. Violation of this provision shall be punishable as an infraction as provided in Section 1.36.020. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.020C.**)
- c. The complete removal of a waterfowl blind **must be verified** by Department staff by signature of the Application for Return. The application will then be delivered to the Department’s main office for processing.
- d. Refunds will **not** be made for any blind left beyond March 10th, or for any blind that was taken out of the park without being inspected and signed-off by a Department staff. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.050.**)
- e. The County may dispose of any waterfowl blind or parts thereof that remain at the recreation area after March 10th. (**Pursuant to Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.030.**)
- f. Permittee **will be responsible for all costs** of removal above the initial deposit. In addition, the permittee leaving a blind or any part of a blind or other hazardous debris in a recreation area may be subject to legal action. In accordance with **Stanislaus County Code Title 1, General Provisions Section 1.36, General Penalties**, failure to remove the waterfowl blind after March 10th constitutes an infraction of **Stanislaus County Code Section 18.12.020C** and is punishable by a **mandatory fine** of:
  - i. \$100 for a first violation;
  - ii. \$200 for a second violation of the same Code Section within one year; and
  - iii. \$400 for each additional violation of the same Code Section within one year.
  - iv. **Each and every day, or portion thereof that a violation of this Code Section continues or goes unabated, is deemed to be and constitutes a separate violation of the same Code Section.**