

Camp Pendleton 2023-2024 Waterfowl Hunting Rules

These rules are in addition to the 2023-2024 General Hunting Rules and offer waterfowl specific information. These rules augment and do not replace relevant California Fish and Game Code.

Waterfowl Stamps and Validations: Camp Pendleton is located in the Southern California Waterfowl Zone. Hunters are required to carry their California Hunting License, California Duck Validation, Federal Duck Stamp, and Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation while hunting. Hunters 16 and older must have the both the Federal Duck Stamp and California Duck Validation.

Weapons and Ammunition: Shotguns and ammo must adhere to all relevant State and Federal regulations. Hunters may not use burst, automatic, or muzzle-loading shotguns.

Hunters with Physical Limitations: The Camp Pendleton Game Warden's office will attempt to accommodate individuals with specific requests, such as reserving a hunting area with a pond that is easily accessible. The Game Wardens can assist hunters with amputations or other mobility limitations with an appropriate reserved area through prior coordination. The hunter is responsible for recovering waterfowl, perhaps with a hunter helper. Game Warden personnel will not retrieve waterfowl for you.

Area/Blind Assignments: **Lottery and reservations are accomplished in iSportsman.**

- Acquire an entry permit 3-5 days prior to the first scheduled hunt for the weekend.
- Lottery results will be emailed 2 days prior to the scheduled hunt for the weekend.
- Lottery winners should then obtain the lottery winner permit on iSportsman.
- Lottery winners can make a reservation beginning at 0800 the day before their planned hunt. At this time they can enter up to two guests in their reservation. **These guests can be authorized hunters or non-hunters identified in the general hunting rules.** Non-winners can check out to unreserved areas beginning at 0500 on the day of the hunt.

Hunting Areas: Only 1 party will be allowed to hunt in each pond, lake, blind, or lagoon.
Boat Zones: Santa Margarita River (SMR) Estuary Boat Zones 1-6

Established Blinds:

SMR Weir Blind,

SMR River Blind

SMR2 Percolation Ponds (1-4) 1=wheelchair accessible

Oscar 1/Stuart Mesa Blinds 1-7

White Beach North Blind

White Beach South Blind 1-3

Kilo 1 Pond

Lima West Pond Blind

Lima East Pond Blind

Mike North Pond Blind

Mike South Pond Blind

Pump House Pond Blind

Santa Margarita River Drainage (jump hunting): Hotel river (HR), India river (IR), (SMR1)

Report Unauthorized/Unethical Hunting: Contact the Game Warden office if you see illegal, unsafe, or unethical hunting practices. The Game Warden's office responds quickly to these instances. Camp Pendleton's hunting program is dependent on hunters making safe, ethical, and legal choices. Please help the Game Wardens ensure hunting will continue for years to come by reporting unsafe, unethical, or illegal hunting.

Boats: Boats are authorized for use in ponds to retrieve waterfowl and for use in designated Boat Zones. Each boat must have oars or a small electric motor, flashlight, and life vests for each individual.

Blinds: Do not construct additional permanent blinds. Do not trim vegetation at the blinds. Don't litter.

Check-in and Check-out Procedures: Use iSportsman to check in/out of areas. First shot is ½ hour before sunrise, last shot is at sunset. To avoid ruining another hunter's opportunity, do not enter blinds from one hour before sunrise to 1000. Here is the hunting day schedule:

0500	Check in begins; don't enter the training areas before this time
0600	No check-ins between 0600-0900 as this negatively affects others in the blinds.
1500	Last opportunity to check out to a duck hunting areas on iSportsman.
30 min after sunset	Last hunter checks out from the field. If you need more time due to travel through the training area, contact the Game Wardens. Failure to check out will result in a 1 week suspension.

Environmental Regulations: The Santa Margarita River (SMR) Estuary is a protected wetland ecosystem. All boats to be used in the SMR Estuary must be launched and loaded from the dirt road directly beneath Interstate 5. Foot traffic is prohibited anywhere within the SMR Estuary. Cutting and/or removal of vegetation is prohibited in all hunting areas.

Displaying of Vehicle Pass: Each hunter checked out to an area must place their vehicle pass on the dashboard of their hunting vehicle. Multiple hunters carpooling will place multiple passes on the dashboard.

Safety: Hunter orange is not required for duck hunting, in general. Some limited exceptions may occur when co-use of areas occurs. Hunters would be notified through iSportsman. Hunters may not shoot toward roads, behind blinds, over other boats, or over other hunters. Hunting is prohibited within 150 yards of Interstate-5 and 500 yards of Del Mar Recreational Beach. All individuals in a boat must wear a life vest.

Non-Waterfowl Hunting: A hunter may only hunt waterfowl while checked out for waterfowl hunting.

Ethical Shots: Only take shots that you can make based on your experience at the range. Do not take shots beyond your skill level or what the conditions allow. "Sky blasting" at 50+ yards significantly increases chances of crippling animals. Hunters caught "sky blasting" will be suspended. Be sure of the species you intend to take and mindful of your limits.

After the Harvest: Report harvest through iSportsman. The hunter may utilize the skinning rack area, but do not rely on Game Warden personnel to assist cleaning your waterfowl. Discard animal parts in the “gut cans”; do not throw regular trash in the “gut cans”. Clean up after yourself.