

Camp Pendleton 2019-20 Waterfowl Hunting Rules

November 2019

These rules are in addition to the 2019-20 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.

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 Assignments: Waterfowl hunters fill out an Area Preference Sheet to inform the Game Wardens when they can hunt, the members of their hunting party, and their preferred hunting locations. Areas not listed on the Area Preference Sheet are not authorized for waterfowl hunting. Use one sheet per hunting party. Change your Area Preference Sheet as much as you would like. Game Wardens will typically have hunting areas confirmed by Thursday morning with Range Control and publish the waterfowl areas on the Game Warden website by Friday afternoon, or earlier if possible. Failure to check in to your designated hunting area will result in the removal of your Area Preference Sheet.

Hunter Helpers: Waterfowl hunters may bring additional non-hunters on their hunt to assist with spotting, identifying, calling, and retrieval of waterfowl. "Hunter helpers" cannot hold any weapons and do not need to be listed on the Area Preference Sheet. Hunter helpers do not need a hunting license or permit, but must otherwise be eligible to participate in the Camp Pendleton hunting program. Hunter helpers will remain in the blinds with the hunter. The use of hunting dogs is permitted in all hunting areas.

Hunting Areas: Only 1 party will be allowed to hunt in each pond, lake, blind, and lagoon. Only 2 parties will be allowed to hunt in each drainage at any given time.

Boat Zones: Santa Margarita River (SMR) Estuary (BZ1, BZ2, BZ3, BZ4)

Established Blinds: Stuart Mesa Ponds (SM1, SM2, SM3, SM4, SM5, SM6)
SMR2 Percolation Ponds (PP1*, PP2, PP3, PP4, PP5) *=wheelchair accessible

No Established Blinds at ponds/lagoons: Echo North Pond (ENP), Echo South Pond (ESP), Hotel Pond (HP), India Pond (IP), Kilo 1 Pond (K1P), Kilo 2 Pond (K2P), Lima West Pond (LWP), Lima East Pond (LEP), Mike North Pond (MNP), Mike South Pond (MSP), Papa 1 Pond (P1P), Pump House Pond (PHP), Red Beach Lagoon (RBL), White Beach North Lagoon (WBN), White Beach South Lagoon (WBS)

Santa Margarita River Drainage (jump hunting): Hotel river (HR), India river (IR), (SMR1), (SMR2)

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. No more than 3 people per boat.

Blinds: Hunters may only shoot from or within 15 feet of the blind they are assigned to and may not leave the blind to jump shoot waterfowl. Hunters may not establish blinds or shooting positions in the water or areas further than 15 feet from the established blinds. Additional permanent blinds may not be constructed anywhere. No more than 3 people per blind.

Check-in and Check-out Procedures: Until iSportsman is up and running on Camp Pendleton, all hunters must physically check in and out at the Game Warden office (bldg. 2648). Waterfowl hunters may call the Game Warden office to change areas.

First shot is ½ hour before sunrise, last shot is at sunset. Here is the hunting day schedule:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 0430-0545 | Hunters with a reserved area based on their Area Preference Sheet can check out. |
| 0600 | Hunters can check out to remaining areas. Game Wardens may conduct a random drawing if there are limited areas and many hunters waiting to check out. |
| 1400 | Game Warden staff may begin limiting hunters checking out to avoid negatively impacting hunters in the field beginning their evening hunt. |
| 1900 | Last hunter checks in from the field. At 1900 the Game Warden will begin searching the hunting area for missing hunters. Most missing hunter searches are false alarms due to a hunter not checking back in properly. Arriving after 1900 may result in a hunting 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 must be worn in areas where other hunting activity (except archery) is taking place and must be the outer most layer to cover the majority of the torso, front and back. Hunters may not enter the water with a weapon for any reason. 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: Bring the carcass into to the Game Warden's office for verification of species and numbers harvested. 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.

Over-Harvest and Wrongful Take: Do not shoot over the harvest limits or any species not authorized for take. If you do, bring it back to the office and forfeit the animal.