## **Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge**

## McCormack Unit



**Hunt Lottery** - Waterfowl hunting on the McCormack Unit is done through a lottery prior to the start of the waterfowl season each year. Hunters who are drawn will receive their reservations in the mail prior to the start of the season. For information regarding the hunt lottery program, consult the refuge website or contact the Refuge at the phone number and address given below.

**Waterfowl Permits** - Waterfowl permits are required to hunt waterfowl, coots and snipe. All waterfowl hunters must have a permit for each day they hunt.

**Waterfowl Hunt Days** - Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, and New Years day only, during State waterfowl season.

**Hunter Check Station** - The hunter check station is located on Paterson Ferry Road in Irrigon, Oregon. The check station is staffed 1.5 hours before legal shooting hours until 8:00 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *All waterfowl hunters must check in at the station prior to hunting.* 

Blind Selection and Check in Procedures - Bring your reservation and arrive early; blind selection begins 1.5 hours before legal shooting time. Blind selection is determined using a number on the waterfowl reservation. The hunter with the lowest number selects their blind first. Hunters checking in after blind selection starts risk cancellation of their reservation for the day, and are only allowed to check in after all on-time hunters.

**Standby Hunting** - After all on-time hunters have selected their blinds, unoccupied blinds will be assigned to standby hunters according to a drawing held at the hunter check station. Afternoon hunting blinds are also assigned according to a drawing.

**Check Out Procedures** - Waterfowl hunters are required to check out at the hunter check station before switching blinds or leaving the refuge. Check-out must be completed no later than 1.5 hours after the close of State shooting hours. If the check station is closed, hunters should drop their permit cards into the drop box at the hunter check station.

**Recreation User Fee** - A daily blind fee of \$10.00 per hunter is payable at the time of the hunt. There is no fee for youths 15 years and under. Holders of any America the Beautiful Access cards pay half price for hunt fees. A \$50.00 season pass is also available. The check station will accept cash or personal check.

**Blind Sites** - A maximum of three persons per blind is permitted on the McCormack Unit. For River sites marked by a numbered stake, hunters must remain within 100 feet (30m) of the stakes unless retrieving birds. For River hunt sites 1-4 and *Slough* hunt sites, a hunt blind is provided and hunters must remain at the hunt blind unless retrieving birds. For *Field* hunt sites within agricultural areas, pit blinds are available. Hunters may also hunt away from pit hunt blinds using portable blinds at distances that are approved by refuge staff according to crop management and other conditions. *Desert* hunt sites are available as freeroam access within two designated zones, #50 and #51. Blind #35 is a designated disabled hunter site. Blind #13 provides improved access to disabled hunters.

**Upland Game Bird Hunting** - Pheasant and quail hunting is allowed from 12 noon until the end of state shooting hours during legal Refuge waterfowl hunt days. All upland game bird hunters must check in at the check station prior to hunting. A maximum of 15 permits will be issued each day. Upland bird hunters must check out when finished hunting. Advanced reservations are required to hunt upland birds during the first two weekends of the season. Consult the website or call number listed below for information regarding reservations.

**Public Entry** - The refuge is open from 5:00 a.m. until 1.5 hours after sunset.

**Vehicles & Parking** - All hunters are required to park in designated parking lots. Parking lots are lettered B-O, with trails leading from parking lot to each blind site. Consult map to find which parking lot to use according to your blind choice. Vehicles are allowed only on designated routes of travel. A car top boat launch is located at parking lot I. Only non-motorized boats are allowed in slough. Hunters may use boats to set decoys and retrieve birds only.

**Weapon, Ammunition, and Shell Limit** - Shotguns only. Only steel or other federally approved nontoxic shot may be used or possessed in the field. Hunters are limited to the use and/or possession of 25 shells per day for waterfowl hunting.

**Prohibited Acts** - No fires, camping or alcoholic beverages are allowed.

## For more information, contact:

Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex 64 Maple Street Burbank, WA. 99323-8521 Phone 509-546-8300 www.fws.gov/umatilla Revised September 2008

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