

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 season.
- Sign up is normally the month of August but check out the Div. of Fish and Wildlife webpage for details.
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/
- Reserved hunt days include opening weekend and then every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday until the first Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- Stand-by drawings will be held each of the reserved hunt days at 4:30 a.m.

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.
- 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.

Front of the Lake (Zone Hunting) - Hunting Hours ½ hr before Sunrise to Noon

- The front of the lake is broken into two zones, North and South. Each zone will have 4 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)
- 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
- 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 (Stake Hunting) - Hunting Hours ½ hr before Sunrise to Noon

- The back of the lake has a series of stakes for hunters to choose from.
- Hunters hunting the M1, M2, or the M6 stake will launch from the north parking area.
- Hunters hunting M3, M4, M5, or M7 will launch at the south parking area at Filbert Lane
- Hunters must hunt within 25 yards of the stake

Pogue Marsh (Stake Hunting) - Hunting Hours ½ hr before Sunrise to Noon

- The Pogue Marsh has a series of stakes for hunters to choose from.
- Hunters hunting P1 and P3 will launch from the back of the lake at the north launch
- Hunters hunting P6, P8, or P7 will park in the Area 4A lot (there is no ramp for these blinds)
- Hunters must hunt within 25 yards of the stake

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.
- Management reserves the right to alter shooting schedule with 24 hour notice. Notice will be posted at headquarters. (Example: Season Ending Hard Freeze)
- Corn will be hunted the last two days of the season.
- The corn units have a series of stakes for hunters to choose from Rookery -3 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) - Hunting Hours ½ hr before Sunrise to Noon

- 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 K, Highway Pond, and Great Lakes Pond.
- Unit J will be hunted every third day starting the second day of the season and continuing on that rotation throughout the season. – One party per hunt day

Special September Season Rules

- **Shooting time for teal begins at sunrise**, shooting time for geese begins ½ before sunrise. Shooting time for both ends at sunset.
- Drawing times will be 4:30 (hunt until 11:00) and at Noon (hunt until sunset)
- 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.
- Unit J on TNC will be hunted every other day starting Sept. 1.

OTHER GENERAL REGULATIONS

- **Willow Slough has a 25 shell limit during all duck seasons and a 4x's the daily Canada goose bag limit when only the goose season is open.** (Ex. Bag of 5 in September, 20 shells. Bag of 3 during the late season, 12 shells)
- **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 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)

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.
- If you are launching at the north parking area in the back of the lake, do no block patrol road, other hunters will be going to the Filbert Lane ramp.
- **Be patient, this is new for everyone. It will take some time to get all the issues addressed.**

For the 2013/14 hunting season