



## 2020 WATERFOWL HUNTING PROCEDURES

### Anderson Lake SFWA & Carlson Unit

- All registered blind builders will sign in per usual by one hour prior to shooting time for that day in a drive through fashion.
- DNR staff will hand hunters a harvest card and then they will leave the area.
- Any remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless manner.
- Both registered and left over groups will self check out at the main office by placing their harvest card in the box.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### WALK-INS

- Permit hunters will select their hunting stake per the number they were assigned on their permit by one hour prior to shooting.
- After any permit holders show up for the day, remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless fashion. DNR staff will hand hunters a harvest card and hunters will be required to self check out at the main office.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### Banner Marsh SFWA

- Any permit hunters will select their hunting stake per the number they were assigned and will be handed a harvest card on their permit by 5 AM.
- After any permit holders show up for the day, remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless fashion. DNR staff will hand hunters a harvest card and hunters will be required to self check out at the main office.
- There will be a \$10.00 fee per hunter. Please use correct change.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### Chain O'Lakes - Grass Lake, Nippersink Lake, Redwing Slough/Deer Lake

- Blind drawing winners/ locations from 2019 will be utilized for 2020.
- Hunters have already been contacted by phone or email.
- All other procedures will be followed as in previous years.

### DePue SFWA

- Blind holders will claim their blinds at the main office and receive harvest card in a drive through contactless fashion.
- Unclaimed blinds will be allocated by first come first serve.

### Donnelley

- Blinds will be allocated by first come first serve in a drive through contactless fashion.

### Double T SFWA

- Any permit hunters will select their hunting stake or pit per the number they were assigned and will be handed a harvest card by 4:30 AM.
- After any permit holders show up for the day, remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless fashion. DNR staff will hand hunters a harvest card and hunters will be required to self check out at the main office.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### Embarrass River Bottoms SHA

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

### **Fox Ridge**

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

### **Heidicke Lake**

- Blinds will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- Hunters must self check in/out at the boat launch and pick up a waterfowl harvest card.
- Harvest Cards are to be deposited at the check in/out station at the end of their hunt.
- Detailed instructions are provided at self check in/out station.

### **Hidden Springs**

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

### **Horseshoe Lake** (Alexander County)

- Hunters will be required to park in the corresponding position number (1-15) on their permit.
- Hunters must remain in their vehicles at all times.
- Once the draw begins, hunters will pull up to the selection area as directed by staff and select a blind off the board (the hunters will have 18 blinds to select from).
- Hunters will receive a copy of the rules and regulations, site map, and blind specific map then head to their blind.
- Hunting ends at 12:00pm. Gates will be closed at 12:30pm.
- All hunters must complete harvest report cards at the end of each day's hunt.
- Only one vehicle allowed per permit holder.

### **Horseshoe Lake** (Madison County)

- Waterfowl hunters planning on hunting the site in 2020 are encouraged to call the site prior to hunting if they have any questions on specific registering procedures.
- Site will have a manned check station, open all 60 days of the Central Zone waterfowl season, from 4am - 12 noon.
- Hunters who own blinds must continue to register in person at the check station prior to one hour prior to shooting time each day.
- Those who wish to be placed in the daily lottery must register one hour prior to shooting time each day and wait until the morning lottery is conducted before proceeding to a duck blind.
- All hunters must remain outside the check station and register through the window while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask if standing near other hunters.
- The check station will be open to additional hunters and for those wishing to occupy duck blinds vacated by prior hunters earlier that day from 9am until 12 noon. No other hunters are permitted to occupy a blind once the check station closes at 12 noon.
- Hunters must deposit harvest cards to the check station if they are done hunting by 12 noon or via the sign out box located near the office front door if their hunt is over after 12 noon.

### **Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA**

- Hunters must claim stakes at the kiosk located at the check station, then proceed to boat ramp and hunting area. Waterfowl hunting is Wednesday & Saturday only. No in person contact with site staff necessary.

### **Kaskaskia River - Doza Creek Area**

- Hunters will be contacted after an inhouse stake assignment takes place.
- Any unwanted stakes will be re-assigned until the stakes are filled.
- Stake assignments will take place via two separate lotteries. One for walk in stakes and one for boat blind stakes.
- Hunters will be required to drop off a pre-paid post card with their name, day of hunt desired, phone number and either boat or walk-in preference selected.

- One single entry per person is allowed each day for the lotteries.

#### **Kickapoo SFWA**

- Hunters will be required to sign-in and out.
- Blinds will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis as normal.

#### **Larry D. Clossen SHA**

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

#### **Lasalle Lake**

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

#### **Marshall**

- All registered blind builders will sign in per usual one hour prior to shooting time for that day in a drive through contactless manner.
- Hunters will be handed a harvest card and then leave the area.
- Any remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless manner.
- Both registered and left over groups will self check out at the main office by placing their harvest card in the box.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

#### **Marshall Duck Ranch Unit**

- Allocation of vacant blinds at the Marshall unit will be held at the same location.
- Locations will be assigned to the permit winners since hunt positions are not predetermined.

#### **Matthiessen**

- First come first serve goose hunting area.
- Sign in/sign out boxes will be located for hunters to utilize.

#### **Mazonia/Braidwood SFWA**

- Only one hunter from each party will check in at the window of the main office.
- Staff will record all hunters' names in that party on a sign-in/waterfowl harvest card.
- The hunting party's card will be put in a barrel to be drawn for stake allocation. Hunters will receive a stake map if requested.
- Staff will keep card and hunters will be asked that checked in the party to return to their vehicle and tune their vehicle's radio to a specific frequency for announcements (signage will list radio frequency).
- At designated draw time, staff will make daily announcements over FM transmitter and/or bull horn.
- As staff draws a card, it will be announced over the FM transmitter and/or bull horn along with hunters' names.
- Selected party's representative will come to the check station again and choose hunting stake from map at check station.
- Hunting party will receive their sign-in/waterfowl harvest card with their chosen stake and then the chosen stake will be announced. It is recommended that hunters keep track of blinds taken during the draw to help speed up the process.
- Hunting party will then be required to leave the area and go to their assigned stake.
- Hunters must record their harvest under each respective hunter name on the card at the end of the hunt.
- Hunting party will place their harvest card in the lock box located outside the main office at the end of each day's hunt.
- There will be no re-draw for blinds this year.
- There will be no standby drawings after the main draw for Braidwood Lake and the Mazonia North and South Units.
- Mazonia North and South Unit blinds will follow the same procedure for open blinds available daily.

## **Mermet Lake**

### **BLINDS & POOLS**

- Hunters will pull into the site and park at the sign that corresponds to their permit number and stay in their vehicle.
- Staff will record all hunters' names within the party.
- The hunting party will receive their hunter harvest card, map and rules & regulations.
- Hunting parties will tune their vehicle's radio to a specific frequency for announcements and stay in their vehicle (signage will direct traffic flow and list radio frequency).
- At designated draw time (two hours before sunrise), staff will make daily announcements over FM transmitter.
- Staff will announce and ask the permit "number" to pull up to check station and select their hunting position, while remaining in their vehicle.
- Selected party will pull in front of check station and choose hunting position from map on outside of check station (positions are covered as they are taken).
- Hunting party will receive their marked waterfowl harvest card with their chosen location and be required to leave the area to head to their hunting location.
- Hunters must record their harvest at the end of the hunt and place harvest card in the lock box located on the side of the check station by 2:00 p.m. the same day of the hunt.

### **WALK-INS**

- Hunters will follow sign directing them to where they must sign-in and pick up a registration/harvest card.
- On a first-come, first-serve basis (25) twenty-five hunters will be allowed per walk-in area for a total of fifty (50) walk-in hunters on site.
- All hunting will stop at 1pm and hunters must vacate the area by 2pm after depositing their harvest cards.
- Hunters will not be allowed into the area until an hour and a half (1.5) before sunrise.

## **Middle Fork SFWA**

- Hunter sign-in/out, freelance along river. No changes.

## **Mississippi River SFWA**

- There will not be a manned check station on the Mississippi River State Fish & Wildlife area this year for the 2020 Waterfowl season.
- Hunting areas that traditionally have a manned check station, will have a hunter card drop box placed where the check station is normally placed; except for Batchtown.
- Batchtown drop box will be located at the Batchtown Sportsman Club Boat Ramp.
- Hunters will go to the drop box each day and retrieve a blank Harvest Card, fill it out, then take it to the blind with them.
- Hunters are required to fully fill out all information including names, addresses, hunt hours and the amount of birds harvested for that day, including their species and sex.
- The card is to be placed in the hunter card drop box upon completion of each day's hunt.
- Blind holders in these locations are required to have at least one registered blind builder occupy the blind 1 hour prior to legal shooting time.
- Hunting is only allowed from a registered built blinds that has passed inspection.
- Hunting is not allowed at empty blind stake sites.
- All other rules, regulations and shooting/quitting times apply for this season, please see hunter fact sheet: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/MississippiRiverStateFishWildlifeArea.aspx>
- From a safe distance, hunters can let other daily draw hunters know what blind number they will be claiming that morning.

- If you have claimed a blind and you see someone out on the water looking for a blind, help them find one if you can. All of this will go a long way in making sure all hunters are in their blinds before shooting time and not bumping waterfowl.
- Social distancing is required for all locations.
- No congregating at hunter drop card boxes or boat ramps.
- Only one hunter will retrieve a harvest card at a time.
- Please be polite and courteous to fellow hunters while keeping mindful of social distancing guidelines.
- Areas that are affected and will have the Harvest Card Drop Box located at the normal check station location include:
  - Calhoun Point / Calhoun Point Goose Pitts
  - Godar Complex (Dimond Island, Huracan Island, Tarpie/Michael Landing)
  - The Glades
  - Stump Lake

**NOTE:** Batchtown hunter drop box will be placed at the Batchtown Sportsman Club Boat Ramp and will not be at the legion check station.

- Area's that will not be affected and will operate as normal will include:
  - Helmbold Lake
  - Mississippi River Blinds
  - Piasa Island
  - Reds Landing
  - Rip Rap Landing
  - All walk in areas

### **Newton Lake SFWA**

- No daily drawing at site office to allocate hunter sections.
- Newton Lake staff will randomly draw hunters and place them in a designated section.
- No boats allowed on the lake.
- No hunting on the island.

For further question contact Newton Lake SFWA (618) 783-3478, or Red Hills SP (618) 936-2469.

### **Rend Lake**

- Hunters will need to pull in front of check station in a marked drive thru lane and stay in their vehicles.
- Staff will record all hunters' names in that party on a sign-in/waterfowl harvest card
- Hunting parties will be assigned a lottery ball number which will be recorded on their card and hunters will receive a stake map if requested.
- Staff will keep card and ask hunting party to tune their vehicle's radio to a specific frequency for announcements, go park, and stay in vehicle (signage will direct traffic flow and list radio frequency).
- At designated draw time, staff will make daily announcements over FM transmitter and outdoor speaker.
- As staff draws a ball number, it will be announced over the system along with hunters' names.
- Selected party will pull in front of check station again and choose hunting stake from map on outside of check station (stakes are covered as they are taken).
- Hunting parties will receive their sign-in/waterfowl harvest card with their chosen stake and date stamp recorded on the back, then chosen stake will be announced.
- Hunting parties will then be required to leave the area to head to their hunting location.
- Each party must record their harvest under each respective hunter name on the card at the end of the hunt
- Hunting parties will need to place their harvest card in the lock box portion of the sign-in box at their respective launch site at the end of each day's hunt. These procedures will increase the time it takes to conduct our daily draw, but there should still be time for hunters to get to their stakes and set up while utilizing normal drawing times.

- Second drawing that normally takes place at 9:00am for late arrivals to choose any unchosen stakes from the 4:00 am drawing will **not** be taking place this year.

### Rice Lake

- All registered blind builders will sign in 1-hour prior to shooting time in a drive through fashion.
- Any remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless manner.
- Both registered and left over groups will self check out at the main office by placing their harvest card in the box.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### WALK-INS

- Any permit hunters will select their hunting stake per the number they were assigned and will be handed a harvest card on their permit by 5 AM.
- After permit hunters show up for the day, remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless fashion
- Hunting parties will be handed a harvest card that must be filled out with all hunters in the party's information.
- Self check out at the main office is required by placing the harvest card in the box.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**

### Sanganois

- All blind builders will drive through the check station site and announce to the site staff that their blind will be occupied that day. This must be done no less than one hour prior to legal shooting time.
- Everyone is required to stay in their vehicles.
- Any unclaimed blinds will be drawn for one hour before shooting time. This will take place outside on the west side of the building at the west window.
- All hunting stops at 1:00 pm.
- All Hunters must report their harvest at the check station kiosk no later than 2:00 pm.

### Baker Unit

- Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- An outdoor drawing will be conducted for this unit one hour and 15 minutes prior to legal shooting time. This will occur outside the garage door at the new metal building.
- Social distancing must be adhered to.
- Unit will be closed during the regular firearm Deer season.
- Unit will be open during the muzzleloader deer season and hunters are required to wear blaze orange while traveling to and from the site.
- All hunting stops at 1:00 pm.
- All hunters must report their harvest at the check station kiosk.

### Walk-Ins

- No check in required.
- Hunter groups must stay 200 yards apart.
- All hunting stops at 1:00 PM.
- All hunters must report their harvest at the check station kiosk.

### Sangchris Lake

- Hunters will report to the East Boat Ramp parking lot.
- One member from each hunting party will register at the drawing window and then return to their vehicle.
- The check station will be manned by two employees and no one else will be allowed inside the building.
- As hunter's names are pulled from the lottery, they will be contacted via a megaphone.
- The winner will approach the drawing window and be given a harvest card with their choice of blind/stake.
- At the conclusion of the hunt, all hunters will deposit harvest cards in locked drop boxes located at the boat launches.

### **Shabbona Lake**

- Social distancing and masks are required when checking in and out of the check station.
- There will be 6 waterfowl/blinds available.

### **Shelbyville SFWA - Kaskaskia Unit (Johnathan Creek, Fish Hook & Carr Bottoms) West Okaw Unit (McGee & Dunn)**

Due to the rise in COVID cases along with several other factors including but not limited to; reduction in food due to flood waters held above levee elevation until August 25th, early frost occurring on October 5th eliminating seed head on planted millet, hunters traveling in from counties with high COVID positivity rates, and levee damage (Fish Hook Subs) from flood waters Shelbyville SFWA will **NOT** conduct drawings for the 2020 season. The usual draw for October 24th and October 25th will **NOT** be held, instead the entire site will be first come first serve for the duration of the 2020 waterfowl season.

For the first two days (**October 24th and 25th**) you must fill out a provided harvest card and place on dashboard next to site windshield card. There will be drop boxes and harvest card packets at the Park Office as well as at the Fish Hook Check Station. Harvest card packets will be available around 3 am each morning, once the packets are gone so are the blinds. Each packet will include a numbered harvest card (matching the selected site) as well as site rules, maps, and GPS coordinates. Please be aware that you are still responsible for reporting all harvests on the SFWA by February 15th, 2021. We recommend that you report your harvest daily online in order to avoid being locked out or overloading the system on February 15th.

Windshield cards are still mandatory throughout the SFWA. Hunting concludes within the managed areas (Dunn, McGee, J. Creek, and Fish Hook) at 1 pm daily and all hunters must exit the managed areas by 2pm each day throughout the entire waterfowl season. All of our other regulations remain in place and will be posted at the parking lots as well as available on the [IDNR website](#). Anyone may call the office at 1-217-665-3112 or use Facebook to request maps and hunter facts sheets be mailed to their residence - please be clear and detailed if you leave a voicemail. Someone will be at the site office early to answer the phone (1-217-665-3112) on Oct 24th and 25th, however there will be very limited or no hunter/staff interaction.

Have a safe and enjoyable waterfowl season, hopefully next year we will be back to our normal operating procedures.

### **Snakeden Hollow**

- Hunters must stay in their vehicle and line up by hunt position.
- Staff will come to each car and ask what blind they have. The hunt position will be used to determine who gets the first pick.
- Hunters will sign-in, be given a map, then are required to leave the area and head to their hunt location.
- Hunters must sign out at the check station outside each day they hunt.

### **Starved Rock**

- Utilize self-check in kiosks or sign-in sign-out boxes as normal.

### **Ten Mile Creek SFWA**

- Follow same procedures as listed in the hunter fact sheet.

### **Union County SFWA**

- Hunters must park in the corresponding position number (1-20) on their permit.
- Hunters must remain in their vehicles at all times.
- Staff will direct hunters to pull up to the selection area and select a blind off the board (the hunters will have 23 blinds to select from).

- Hunters will receive a copy of the rules and regulations, site map, and blind specific map, then be required to leave the area and head to their blind.
- Hunting ends at 12:00pm and the gates will be closed at 12:30pm.
- All hunters must complete harvest report cards at the end of each day's hunt.
- Only one vehicle allowed per permit holder.

#### Williams Powers

- Waterfowl hunters planning on hunting the site in 2020 are encouraged to call the site prior to hunting if they have any questions on specific registering procedures.
- Site will have a manned check station, open all 60 days of the Central Zone waterfowl season, from 4am - 12 noon.
- Hunters who own blinds must continue to register in person at the check station prior to one hour prior to shooting time each day.
- Those who wish to be placed in the daily lottery must register one hour prior to shooting time each day and wait until the morning lottery is conducted before proceeding to a duck blind.
- All hunters must remain outside the check station and register through the window while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask if standing near other hunters.
- The check station will be open to additional hunters and for those wishing to occupy duck blinds vacated by prior hunters earlier that day from 9am until 12 noon. No other hunters are permitted to occupy a blind once the check station closes at 12 noon.
- Hunters must deposit harvest cards to the check station if they are done hunting by 12 noon or via the sign out box located near the office front door if their hunt is over after 12 noon.

#### Woodford

- All registered blind builders will sign in as usual one hour prior to shooting time for that day in a drive through contactless manner.
- Harvest cards will be handed out by site staff.
- Any remaining blinds will be assigned in a drive through contactless manner.
- Both registered and left-over groups will self-check-out at the main office by placing their harvest card in the box.
- **All parties are REQUIRED to wear a mask at time of check in.**