

2021-2022



# Ridgefield NWR Hunt Blind Guide

Brought to you in partnership with the  
Washington Waterfowl Association

*Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge provides waterfowl hunters a great opportunity to hunt ducks and geese in southwest Washington. Whether you are a lucky reservation holder or are hoping to secure a blind on standby, we are grateful you chose your National Wildlife Refuge as your hunt location of choice.*

*Ridgefield NWR offers 21 hunt blinds. Remember, hunting is hunting, so some days will be great, and others will be slow. Years of hunting harvest data show that birds can be harvested at any of the blinds. Winds, temperatures, storm fronts, the number of birds in the area, and many other factors can impact each hunt day.*

*Chose the blind that works best for you!*



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Quick Tips for a Successful Hunt:

## COVER UP

- Study the latest harvest information posted at the Hunter Check Station, Ridgefield Office and online.
- Camouflage as completely as you can. Cover the box blind opening and don't move until you are ready to shoot.
- Remember, birds can see into the blind and catch any movement. Have some camouflage netting in your gear as a backup.
- Let the birds work, make sure they are close enough to have a clean shot.
- More boxes of shell will help you make a lot of noise but being well camouflaged will get you more birds!

## CALLING

- It is fun to dust off our duck and goose calls each fall and make some noise. Practice during the off season to get your calls right. Remember the ducks you will be hunting have heard it all.
- Poor calling or calling too much will likely scare birds off instead of luring them into your decoy spread. It may also impact the quality of your neighboring hunter's experience.
- Instead of using your mallard call, try using a northern pintail/widgeon whistle, it might be more effective.

## DECOYS

- The hunter's dilemma is what kind and how many decoys to haul into the blind. On average, Ridgefield hunters bring one to three dozen decoys for the day. Most spreads include mallards, widgeon and northern pintail (pintail) decoys.
- If you were a duck flying over the Hunt Area, the decoy spreads might look like any other day on a refuge. Consider changing it up to get birds to notice your blind.
- Add a few northern shoveler (shoveler), gadwall, ring-necked duck (ring-necked) or green-wing teal decoys. Putting out a couple of decoys with a lot of white on them might help, like a drake goldeneye or canvasback. Some hunters bring swan decoys, not for hunting swans, but because they are common on Ridgefield NWR and can be seen at a distance or in low light conditions.
- During the season, look at how birds are sitting undisturbed in ponds and marshes. Are they in dense clumps or spread out? Are there many birds or just a few?
- More decoys are not always better. Try to have your spreads look like what you are seeing when you are driving around.

## GEAR

- Waders are a must! If you bring hip boots, you are going to get wet! There may be a few blinds early in the season where hip boots may suffice but it is better to plan for waders.
- Having a wading stick is advisable. Walking out to some blinds and retrieving birds can be slippery. Every year a hunter takes an unexpected bath on their way into their blind in the dark. Not a great way to start the day! Some wading sticks are available as loaners at the Hunter Check Station, but they often go quickly in the morning.
- Decoy carts and/or decoy sleds are commonly used by hunters on the Refuge and are especially helpful in hauling gear to some of the more distant blinds.

## THANK YOU FOR COMING!

- After your day of hunting, take a moment to clean the blind, pick up your trash and empty shell hulls.
- The blinds at the Refuge are largely maintained by volunteers from the Washington Waterfowl Association so leave the blind cleaner than you found it. Help the next hunter have a great hunt!

## 2020-2021 BLIND PRODUCTIVITY

BLIND	TOTAL DUCKS	BLIND	TOTAL GEESE
18	265	15	48
5	228	18	28
12	202	1	22
2	201	1a	19
14	195	10	15
19	167	14	15
16	153	12	13
6	138	19	12
8	128	5	11
17	111	7	11
9	103	17	11
10	102	4	8
1	98	6	8
3	88	8	8
13	84	2	7
1a	79	16	6
13a	71	11	3
4	50	13	3
11	46	3	2
7	37	9	2
15	4	13a	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2550</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>252</b>

## 2020/2021 DUCK SPECIES HARVESTED

SPECIES	TOTAL HARVESTED	PERCENT OF HARVEST
Northern Shoveler	757	29.69%
Mallard	365	14.31%
Northern Pintail	356	13.96%
American Wigeon	334	13.10%
Green-winged Teal	230	9.02%
Ring-necked Duck	176	6.90%
Gadwall	119	4.67%

## 2020-2021 HUNT BLIND SUCCESS

BLIND	# HUNTERS	HOURS HUNTED	DUCKS HARVESTED	DUCKS/HUNTER	GEESE HARVESTED	GEESE/HUNTER
1	61	315.75	98	1.61	22	0.36
1a	62	384.00	79	1.27	19	0.31
2	79	441	201	2.54	7	0.09
3	54	282	88	1.63	2	0.04
4	62	311.25	50	0.81	8	0.13
5	94	560.5	228	2.43	11	0.12
6	72	374.5	138	1.92	8	0.11
7	58	272.65	37	0.64	11	0.19
8	84	480.75	128	1.52	8	0.10
9	61	306	103	1.69	2	0.03
10	69	358.75	102	1.48	15	0.22
11	58	289	46	0.79	3	0.05
12	92	539	202	2.20	13	0.14
13	50	251.5	84	1.68	3	0.06
13a	43	230.5	71	1.65	0	0.00
14	87	486.25	195	2.24	15	0.17
15	44	249.75	4	0.09	48	1.09
16	78	448.5	153	1.96	6	0.08
17	78	414.25	111	1.42	11	0.14
18	109	639.5	265	2.43	28	0.26

## **Blind 1**

Access: Park in Lot A

The trail to Blind 1 is approximately 433 yards. It is a clearly defined trail and dry most of the season, no wading to the blind.

### **What to expect:**

This is a pit blind with two separate sunken boxes, a rectangular pit that accommodates two hunters, and circular pit for a single hunter. The pits are housed under a roof, so hunters are protected from the rain and wind.

The blind is oriented from northwest to southeast. If you are hunting by yourself, you may want to consider sitting in the circular pit to give you the best angle for seeing birds coming from the southeast to northwest.

This is a great blind for taking a child or new hunter as it is an easy walk with no wading required to access the blind, and hunters are largely protected from wind and rain. The pits might be a little too deep for a small child to see out, so boat cushion may be helpful.

Water (Bull Lake) covers 180 degrees in front of the blind, basically the entire southwest side. Water varies in depth but is less than waist-deep for most of the season. In late season, the pond edge comes almost to the pits and the pond is deeper but can be waded.

The roof over the blind provides a nice spot to keep your retriever out of the weather and they can see out.

Ducks and geese tend to fly from the southeast to northwest (left to right) or northwest to southeast (right to left) often directly in front of the blind. Birds tend to congregate in Bull Lake adjacent to the hunt area access road. You may see birds flying the tree line in front of the blind but out of range. Typically, there is a flight of relatively low geese in the late morning from the southeast to the northwest. On occasion, these birds are directly above and somewhat behind the blind so getting a shot is sometimes difficult. Keep your eyes and ears open. There is occasionally a reverse flight of geese in the late afternoon. It is typical to have mallard duck pair land in the flooded grassy area 60-80 yards in front of the blind. Typically, you will have a couple flights of green-winged teal flash by, headed to some of the shallowly flooded, grassy areas to the northwest of the blind.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, ring-necked, and pintails.

While the bag can be mixed, once the shovelers are in, they are often most common. It is not uncommon to have lesser scaup (scaup), so be careful shooting before they are in season.





## Blind 1



## **Blind 1A**

Access: Park in Lot A

Blind 1A is reserved for hunters with disabilities. Hunters are permitted to drive directly up to the blind. Parking for this blind is approximately 84 yards away. The trail to the blind is hard packed dirt with gravel and is flat. No wading is needed to get into the blind.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large box blind that is designed to be accessible for mobility impaired individuals. Hunters are permitted to drive directly up to the blind. The blind is quite deep and when sitting back on the bench, for some, it may limit their ability to see birds coming in. The benches swing down so a wheelchair user can easily hunt from the blind.

Hunters not using a wheelchair may want to consider bringing a five-gallon bucket or stool to sit on so they are closer to the front of the blind to enhance visibility.

There is no dog door in the blind. The blind is oriented along a northwest to southeast axis in line with the lake margin. The blind keeps the hunters dry and protected from the weather.

Water (North Quigley Lake) covers 180 degrees in front of the blind, basically the entire southwest side. Water varies in depth from very shallow along the margins to waist deep 30 yards in front of the blind. As the season progresses, the water gets deeper. In late season, the pond edge comes almost to the pits and the water is deep but can be waded.

Ducks and geese tend to fly from the southeast to northwest (left to right) or northwest to southeast (right to left) directly in front of the blind. Often birds will fly from directly behind the blind and then angle along the lake margin. Typically, there is a flight of relatively low geese in the late morning from the southeast to the northwest.

North Quigley Lake holds water most of the year and early in the season birds are imprinted on these waters and shot opportunities are good. Throughout the season, birds use this area so be prepared.

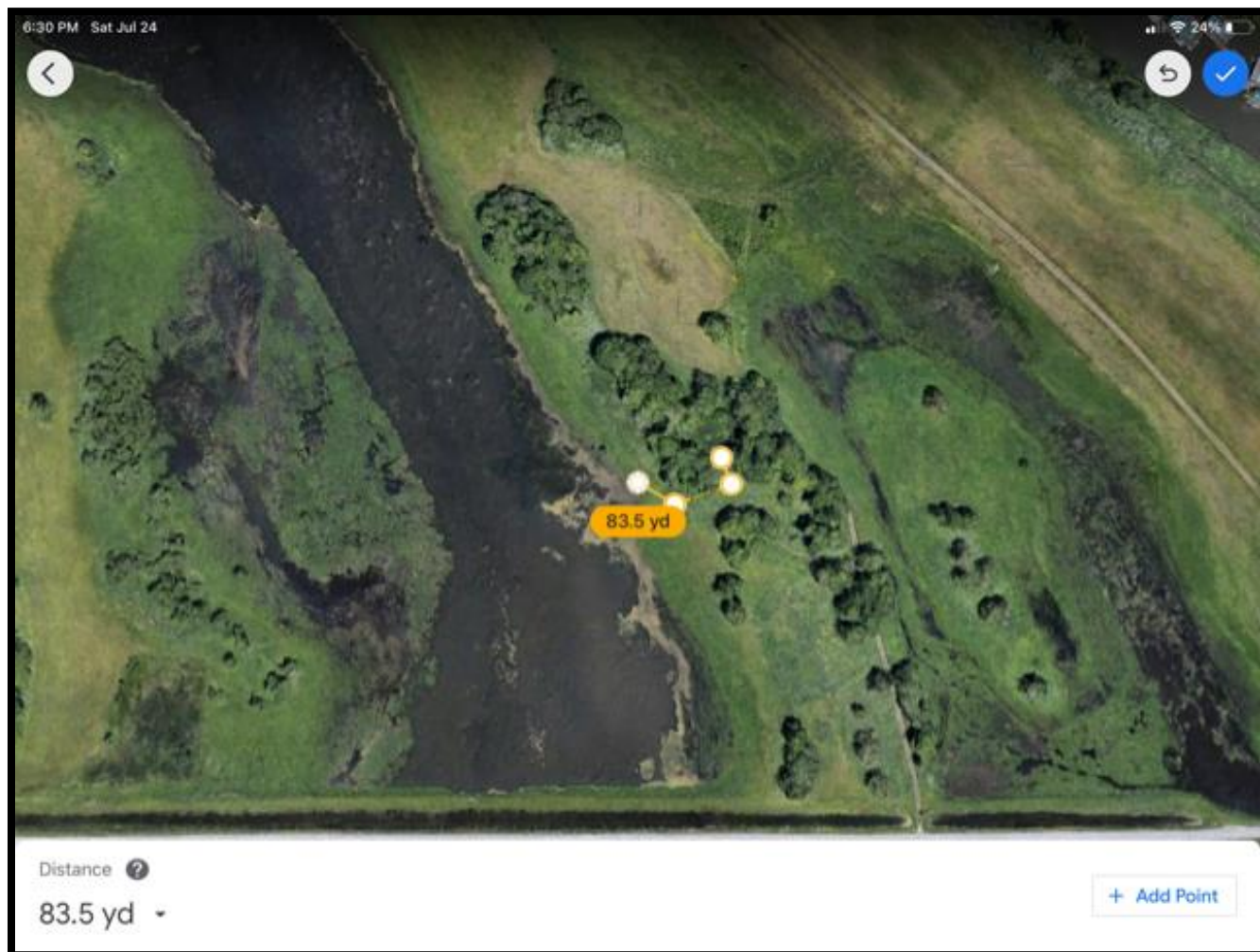
Note that wounded birds often swim away from the blind to the shallowly flooded grassy area across the lake. Here, the grass is in hummocks and it is thickly vegetated.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, ring-necked, buffleheads, and pintails.

It is not uncommon to have scaup come through, so be careful shooting before they are in season.



## Blind 1A





## **Blind 2**

Access: Park in Lot B

The Trail to Blind 2 is approximately 811 yards. It is a clearly defined trail and dry most of the season, until the last 50 yards where you must wade to the blind, which is on a small island in the pond (North Quigley Lake).

### **What to expect:**

This is a pit blind with two separate sunken boxes, a rectangular pit that accommodates two hunters, and circular pit for a single hunter that sits on a small bare island. The pits are in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

The walk to the blind from shore has a solid base but don't veer off the direct line or you get into the mud bottom of the pond. The water can be waded but it can get deep quickly as the rains progress. A wading stick is helpful.

Water surrounds the blind. In late season, cover for the hunters become sparse so you may want to bring some brown camouflage netting to keep hidden. There is no place for a dog to hide and keep out of the weather unless you bring a Mutt Hut or something similar.

The pond (North Quigley Lake) is oriented from northwest to southeast and the birds tend to fly that axis. The pits are oriented on almost an east to west axis, and most hunters face to the south. Because this pond is relatively deep and watered, it is an early season hot spot as early arrivals have imprinted on using this area.

This can be a great blind any time of the year. Hunters often will put out some decoys with a lot of white to draw birds as this is a big body of water and you want to get the attention of birds flying by.



Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, and pintails. Hunters may also get shots at passing geese.

This pond tends to attract several divers, so ring-necked are common and scaup also come through, so be careful shooting before they are in season. Golden-eyed ducks are not infrequent and to shoot them requires possession of a Sea Duck Harvest card.

This blind is a steady producer.

## Blind 2



Distance ?

807 yd

+ Add Point





## **Blind 3**

Access: Park in Lot B

The trail to Blind 3 is approximately 409 yards. To get to the blind from the parking lot, proceed to the main road. Continue down the road to the east as if you are leaving the hunt area, and out of the hunt area gate. You then cross the road (go left, north) and over the canal. Walk along the tree line north, following the signs eventually turning right (northeast) and into a patch of trees. Once in the trees, you start wading for the remaining 50 yards to the blind.

Wading can be challenging especially in the dark as the trail is uneven with potholes and channels used by beaver. Downed limbs and clumps of vegetation can make the walk challenging! A wading stick is highly advised. Arriving at the blind, the water can be knee deep.

### **What to expect:**

This is a box blind made of woven wire in standing water. It has a plywood roof and floor. The blind has three stools. An opening and ramp can be used for dogs to exit and enter the blind. The blind is oriented along a northwest to southeast axis in line with the lake margin but facing northeast. Blind 1A is across the lake and down from this blind.



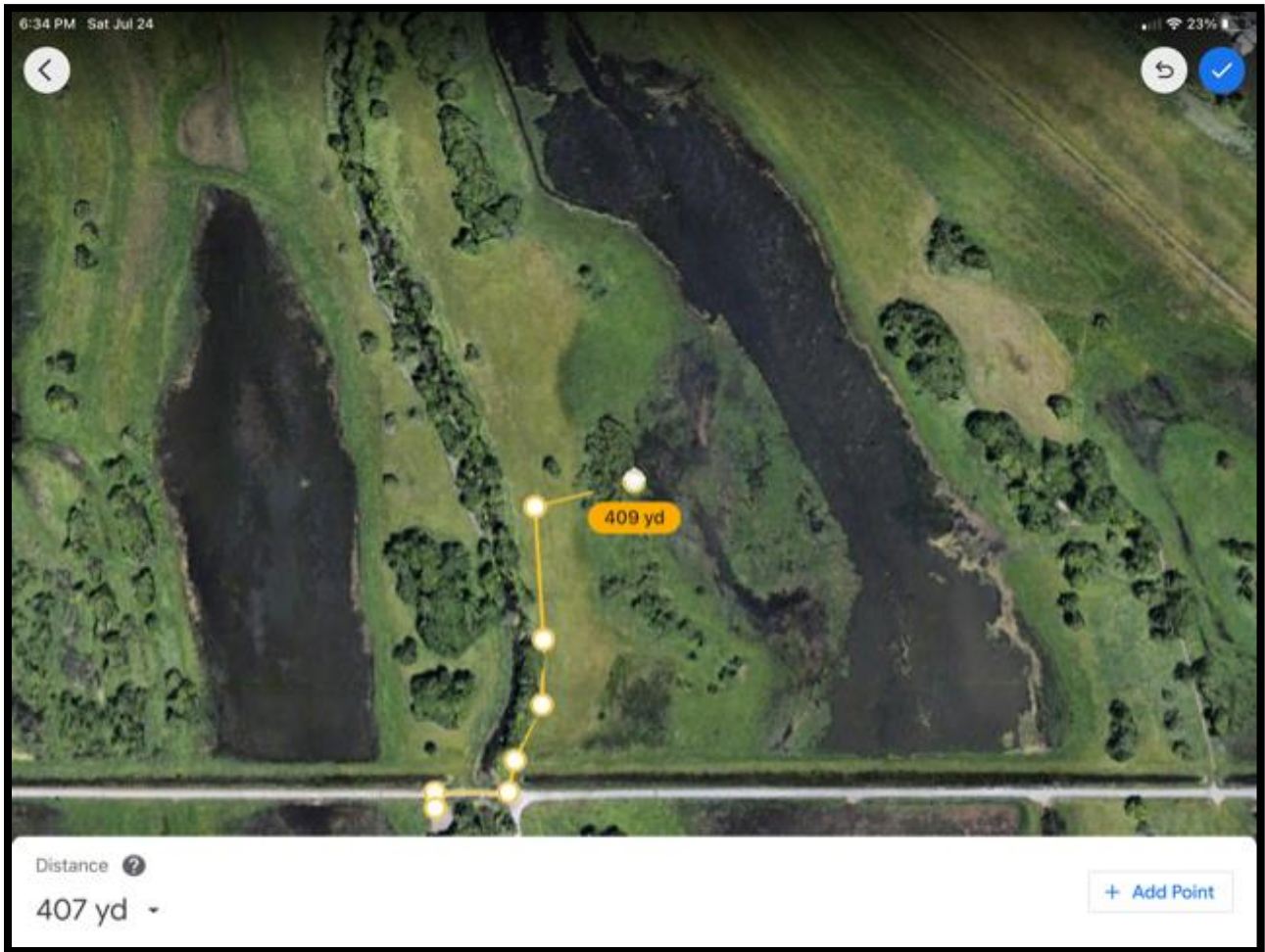
The blind keeps the hunters out of the weather and relatively dry. Marsh and open water from North Quigley Lake, approximately 60 yards wide by 40 yards deep, spreads out in front of the blind, enclosed by an expansive buffer of marsh vegetation. The waters of North Quigley Lake lay beyond the band of vegetation. Wading here especially in late season is difficult. The mud is sticky and slick, and the depth is uneven so using a wading stick is highly advised. Water varies and is typically thigh deep or up to near chest deep in late season.

This is a good blind that often has a lot of success. The blind is in a wooded pocket that seems to attract dabblers. The birds generally do not come from behind you so keep eyes to the front. Typically, there is a flight of relatively low geese in the late morning from the southeast to the northwest. Often these birds are directly above the blind as they fly along the tree line. They can be over you quickly, so getting a shot is sometimes difficult. Note that wounded birds often swim away from the blind to the shallowly flooded marsh that surrounds the open pocket of water in front of the blind where the vegetation is thick, and walking is difficult.

On a windy day with winds from south or west, this blind is sheltered and can be a great spot to hunt.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, gadwalls, buffleheads, widgeon, and pintails. This blind is a steady producer.

## Blind 3





## **Blind 4**

Access: Park in Lot E

The trail to Blind 4 is approximately 512 yards. It is a clearly defined, mowed trail, through fields and is dry most of the season. No wading is required to access the blind.

### **What to expect:**

This is a sunken pit blind with three stools housed under a roof, so hunters are protected from the rain and wind. The blind is oriented from northwest to southeast and faces southwest.

This blind is separated from the large bodies of water and has its own shallow pond partially surrounded by bullrush and cattails. The pond is seasonally flooded with relatively shallow wading as most of the season the water is knee deep.

The roof over the blind provides a nice spot to keep your retriever out of the weather and they can see out.

This blind was relocated several years ago and was not used consistently by birds for several years. However, it seems like there has been an uptick in use and some nice bags of birds were taken last season. The roof over the pit blind keeps hunters out of the weather.

This pit blind is a rectangular pit with three stations for hunters and a place for a dog. In addition to putting duck decoys in the pond, placing goose decoys in the grassy areas to the southeast and northwest of the blind may be productive.

Commonly bagged birds include green-winged teal, widgeon, mallards, and pintails.



## Blind 4



## **Blind 5**

Access: Park in Lot B

The trail to Blind 5 is approximately 382 yards. To get to the blind, walk out of the parking lot to the main road and cross over the canal going north. The trail winds along the canal and you proceed until you come to the post point to the blind. The path is grassy all the way through. At the sign you have to walk about 30 yards to a pit blind on a small island in the pond (South Mantrap Lake).



## **What to expect:**

This is a pit blind with two separate sunken boxes, a rectangular pit that accommodates two hunters and circular pit for a single hunter that sit on a small bare island. The pits are in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

The walk to the blind from shore has a solid base but don't veer off the direct line or you get into the mud bottom of the pond. The water can be waded, but it can get deep fast as the rains progress. A wading stick is highly advisable.

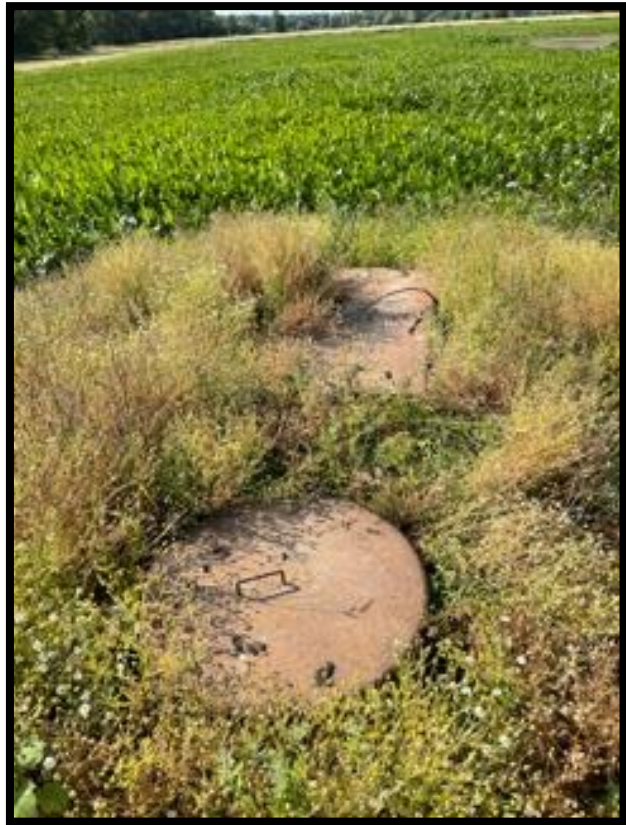
Water surrounds the blind. In late season, cover for the hunters become sparse so you may want to bring some brown camouflage netting to keep hidden. There is no place for a dog to hide and keep out of the weather unless you bring a Mutt Hut or something similar.

The pond (South Mantrap Lake) is oriented from north to south and the birds tend to fly that axis. Because this pond is relatively deep and holds water most of the year, it is an early season hot spot as early arrivals have imprinted on using this area. This can be a great blind any time during the year. Hunters often will put out some decoys with a lot of white to draw birds as this is a big body of water and you want to get the attention of birds swinging by.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, and pintails. This pond tends to attract several divers, so ring-necked are common and scaup also swing through. Be careful shooting before they are in season. Hunters may also get shots at passing geese. Also, goldeneyes are not infrequent and to shoot these, one must have a Sea Duck Harvest card. This is a very popular blind and a steady producer.



## Blind 5





## **Blind 6**

Access: Park in Lot E before the road turns past the Pump House

The trail to Blind 6 is approximately 866 yards. To shorten the carry of your decoys and gear you can drop them off at the trail marker along the road about 75 yards from where you park. The walk to the blind is through fields on a mowed path and no wading is necessary. The pit blind sits along the eastern shoreline of North Mantrap Lake.

### **What to expect:**

This is a pit blind with two separate sunken boxes, a rectangular pit that accommodates two hunters, and circular pit for a single hunter. The pits are in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day. Early in the season the water is knee deep. As the season progresses the water depth increases and by the end of the season it approaches chest deep.

The pond narrows down to a channel to the north of the blind and this channel especially late in the season can surprise you with its depth.



This is a great blind and a good bet for taking a child or new hunter. It is an easy walk with no wading required to access the blind, and hunters can see the horizon readily.

The downside is that hunters are exposed to the elements of wind and rain. Another downside for a shorter child is that the pits may be a little too deep for them to see out. A boat cushion may be helpful in this instance.

North Mantrap Lake can be waded completely across but a wading stick is helpful. In late season, cover for the hunters become increasingly sparse so you may want to bring some camouflage netting to keep hidden. There is no place for a dog to hide and keep out of the weather unless you bring a Mutt Hut or something similar.

The pond (North Mantrap Lake) is oriented from north to south and the birds tend to fly that axis, but they can also come directly towards the blind east from the river. Some birds also may try to sneak in from behind you. Hunters need to scan the horizon as birds can come from any direction.

Since hunters in the blind face west, on a sunny afternoon it can be difficult to see and identify birds/sexes because they appear as dark silhouettes against the sky.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, gadwalls, and pintails. This blind is a steady producer.

## Blind 6





## **Blind 7 (Pit and Box)**

Access: Park in the Hunter Check Station parking lot

The trail to Blind Pit and Box is approximately 430 yards.

### **What to expect:**

This blind gives hunters a choice. There is a pit blind in the adjacent field that can be used for goose hunting and there is a box blind sitting on a small pond that can be used for ducks and passing geese.

In recent years, the pit blind has seldom been used. The box blind is made of fiberglass and has bench seats. The blind keeps the wind and rain off the hunters and is oriented north. The pond is shallow and easily waded. There is no dog door.

Birds coming to the blind typically come from the north, east, or west. With that being said, they will often surprise you by coming from behind you (from the south).

Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, buffleheads, mallards, and pintails. This blind, however, is one of the poorer producing blinds and seldom produces limits.



## Blind 7

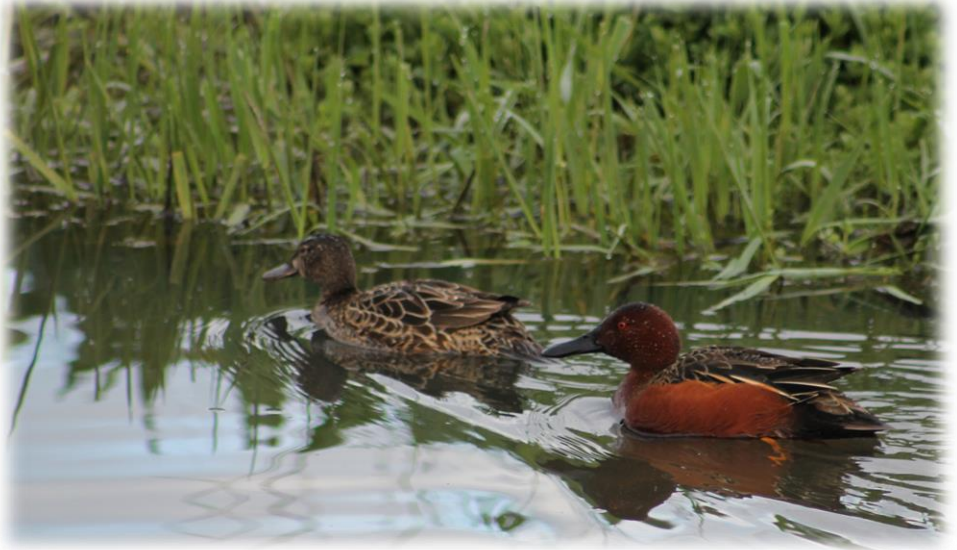




## **Blind 8**

Access: Park in Lot B

The trail to Blind 8 is approximately 170 yards. There is a clearly defined, hard packed trail and it is dry. No wading is required to get to the blind.



## **What to expect:**

This is a large box blind that is accessible even though it is not designated for mobility impaired individuals. Hunters are not allowed to drive directly up to the blind.

The blind is quite deep and when sitting back on the bench, it is sometimes hard to see. Some hunters bring a five gallon bucket or stool to sit on so they are closer to the front of the blind to increase visibility.

There is no dog door in the blind. This is a great blind for taking a child or new hunter as it is a short hike from the parking lot, and they don't have to wade to get to the blind.

Blind 8 faces southwest and water covers 180 degrees in front of the blind, basically the entire south side (North East Lake). Water varies in depth from a few inches to thigh deep to the south.

Directly west of the blind is a channel that gets nearly chest deep in late winter so be careful retrieving birds that land on the far side of the slough if you don't have a dog.

During the day, birds seem to fly either south to north (at you) or north to south (from the road). The birds coming from north to south will often sneak past if you are not watching closely.

Because the blind is facing southwest, on a clear day in the late afternoon, the sun shines directly at you making it hard to see. Please be advised that if you don't have the opening fully camouflaged, the birds can see any movement in the blind and may fly away.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, and pintails. It is not uncommon to have ring-necked and an occasional scaup. Hunters may also get shots at passing geese.

## Blind 8





## **Blind 9**

Access: Park in Lot B

The trail to Blind 9 is approximately 800 yards. To shorten the carry of your decoys and gear you can drop them off at the trail marker along the road about 250 yards from where you park.

The walk to the blind from the road marker is through fields on a mowed path that is dry most of the season. In the late season the last 200 yards may have ankle-deep water.

The last 60 yards to the blind requires you to leave the trail and must wade to the blind. This can be tough going as the mud bottom is rutted from muskrats and nutria trail. The mud is slick and sticky and the bottom is very uneven. Often you are negotiating waist-deep water. It is easy to lose your footing so bring a wading stick. Carrying decoys is tough, so a decoy sled is also very helpful.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind that was rebuilt a couple of years ago. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. The blind sits on pilings out in the water. The area behind the blind is flooded marsh with clumps of vegetation and a large area of open water lays out for 180 degrees in front.

The blind faces to the northeast. The water (North East Lake) varies in depth from mid-thigh to chest deep. After several weeks of hunting, the pond bottom becomes quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help.

Birds can come to the blind from any direction, but they tend to come at you from the north, south or east. When you hear shooting from the neighboring blind behind, (Blind 12) you will want to stay alert because often birds will swing past.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, ring-necked, and pintails.

## Blind 9





## **Blind 10**

Access: Park in the Kiwa Lot off the Auto Tour route

The trail to Blind 10 is approximately 965 yards. The walk to the blind from the Kiwa parking lot is on a hard packed gravel hiking trail until you get almost to the blind. A marker on the trail directs you off trail to the blind which is approximately 60 yards away.

About half the trail to the blind is relatively dry. The last half requires wading that is typically no more than knee deep except in the late season when water levels may increase to waist high.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind that sits on pilings out in the water. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. The area behind the blind is marsh with clumps of vegetation and a small pond with open water lays out in front of the blind. The pond (South East Lake) varies in depth from mid-thigh to chest deep.

After several weeks of hunting the pond bottom will become quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help. The vegetation is thick surrounding the pond so retrieving birds can be tough without a dog.

Birds can come to the blind from any direction, but they tend to come at you from the north (behind you) or from the south (at you). When you hear shooting from the neighboring blind behind, (Blind 9) you will want to stay alert because often birds will swing past.

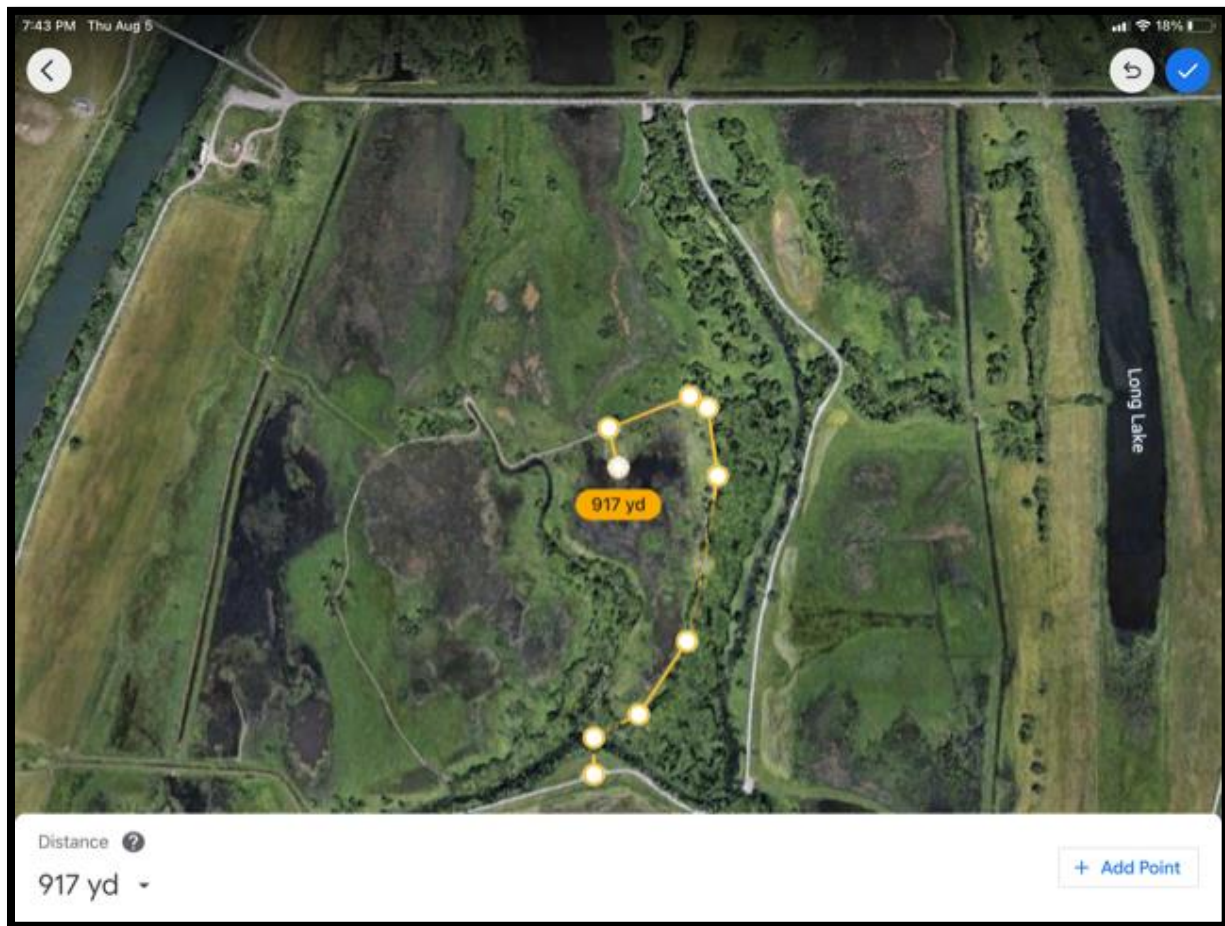
This blind and its pond are well protected and on windy days, this blind can get some especially good shooting.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, gadwalls, green-winged teal, and pintails.





## Blind 10





## **Blind 11**

Access: Park in the Kiwa Lot off the Auto Tour route

The trail to Blind 11 is approximately 400 yards. The walk to the blind from the Kiwa parking lot is on a hard packed gravel hiking trail until you get to the blind. A marker on the trail directs you to the blind which is 3 yards off the trail.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind that sits in the tree line on the edge of South East Lake on a north to south axis. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind.

The area right in front of the blind is open marsh with a small amount of open water. The pond in the early season is more like a flooded marsh rather than open water. Later in the season, the area floods with the seasonal rains and more open water exists. The water depth varies from less than knee deep to waist high.

The vegetation is thick surrounding the pond so retrieving birds can be challenging without a dog.

This blind is in an isolated pocket and not on a major flight path. Birds tend to come at you from the north or from the west. Because the blind is in a pocket surrounded on three sides by trees, birds can seemingly pop up and be gone quickly.

This blind and its pond are well protected and on windy days, the action gets better as birds seek refuge out of the wind.

A variety of birds may come into this area including shovelers, widgeon, mallards, gadwalls, green-winged teal, and pintails. You may also get a shot at passing geese. This blind, however, is one of the poorer producing blinds and seldom produces limits.



## Blind 11





## Blind 12

Access: Park in the Hunter Check Station parking lot

The Trail to Blind 12 is approximately 865 yards. The walk to the blind is on a path that may or may not be mowed and no wading is necessary until the last 50 yards. The pit blind sits on a peninsula sticking out into West Lake.

### What to expect:

This pit blind is a large rectangular fiberglass pit blind with a cover over each hunting position. The pit blind is in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

West Lake wraps around the blind about 270 degrees and the surrounding area is wet marsh. Water in front of the blind is deeper and by mid-season it is waist to chest deep. Water off to the side is shallow and a large area is a shallowly flooded marsh.

West Lake in the area near the blind can be waded but a wading stick is helpful especially in late season. In late season, cover for the hunters becomes increasingly sparse so you may want to bring some camouflage netting to keep hidden. There is no place for a dog to hide and keep out of the weather unless you bring a Mutt Hut or something similar.

Birds can and do come at you from all directions. While the front of this pit blind faces northeast and the tendency is to watch the front, a lot of birds will surprise you from behind.

If you hear gunfire from the blinds situated behind you, you may want to watch what is going on because it may mean that birds are headed your way. Hunters need scan the horizon as birds can come from any direction.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, and pintails. A few flights of green-wings may whiz past so be prepared! This blind seldom disappoints.



## Blind 12





## **Blind 13**

Access: Park in the Hunter Check Station parking lot

The trail to Blind 13 is approximately 1,015 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly on a levee and a mowed path. No wading is usually necessary until the last 60 yards.

The box blind sits on pilings out in the Middle Lake. On the last 60 yards to the blind, you will leave the trail and must wade to the blind. This can be tough going as the mud bottom is rutted from muskrats and nutria trails and the mud is slick and sticky. Often you are negotiating waist-deep to almost chest-deep water. It is easy to lose your footing so bring a wading stick.

Because the wading is tough there is a rowboat with oars that sits on the levee that is available to hunters through the generosity of the Washington Waterfowl Association. Rowing to the blind may be an option for you to consider. Hauling decoys is tough so a decoy sled is also very helpful as is a wading stick.

### **What to expect:**

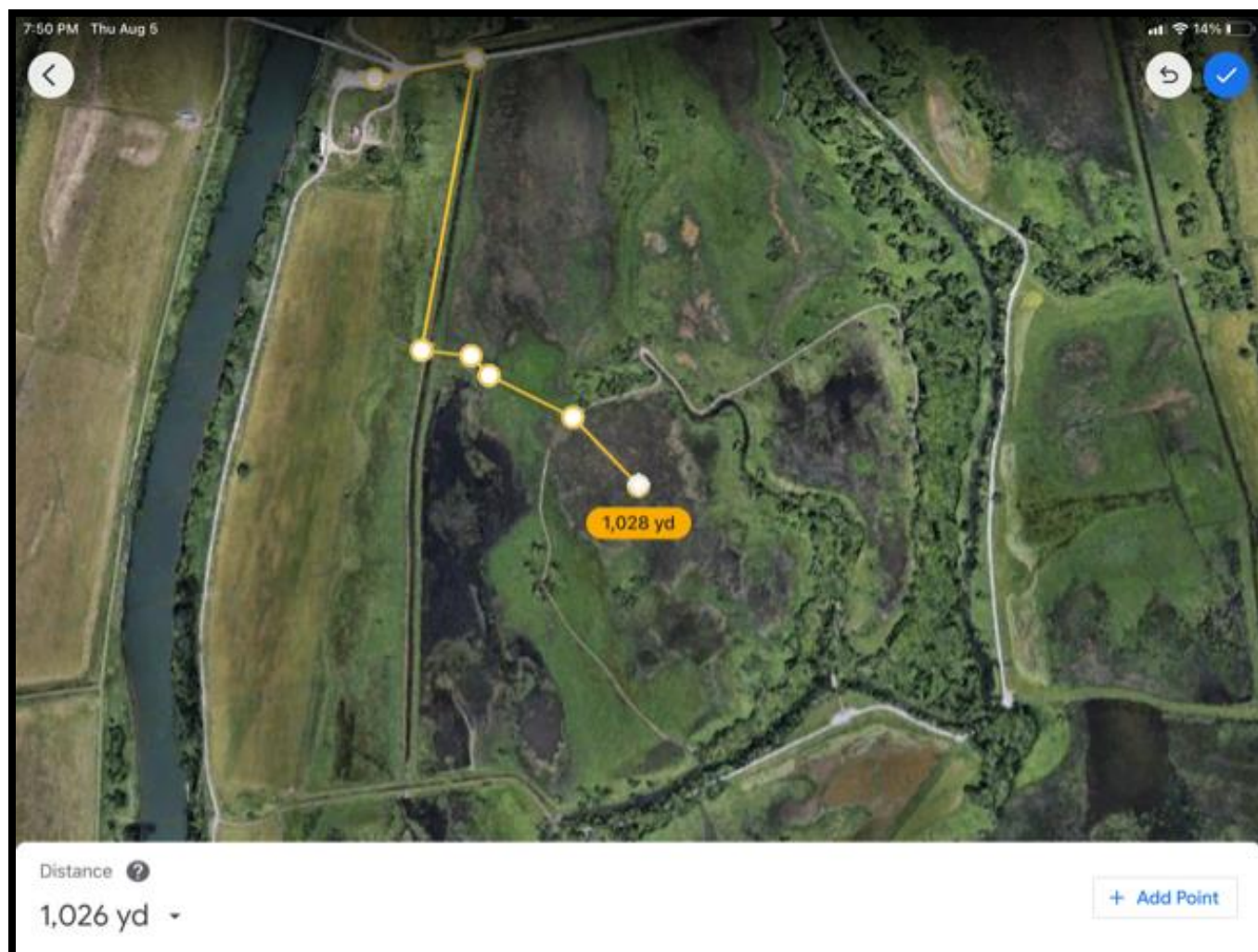
This is a large fiberglass box blind. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. The blind sits on pilings out in the water. The area behind the blind is flooded marsh with clumps of vegetation and a large area of open water lays out for 180 degrees in front. The blind faces west. Water varies in depth from waist to chest deep. After several weeks of hunting the pond bottom become quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help.

Birds can come to the blind from any direction, but they tend to come at you from the north, south or west. On a sunny afternoon in this west facing blind you have the sun in your eyes. It can be difficult to see and identify birds/sexes because they appear as dark silhouettes against the sky.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, ring-necked, and pintails. This area tends to be a magnet for ring-necked. If you drop a bird behind the blind the vegetation is thick and finding them can be tough without a dog.



## Blind 13





## **Blind 13A**

Access: Park in Lot C

The trail to Blind 13A is approximately 1,010 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly on a levee or on a mowed path and no wading is usually necessary. The fiberglass box blind sits on the shores Middle Lake.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. The water in front of the blind is relatively shallow. It is more of an open flooded marsh than a pond. Even late in the season after months of rain the water is generally less than waist deep but the open water areas grow considerably as the vegetation dies back and the water level rises.

The blind faces west. Water varies in depth from waist to chest deep.

After several weeks of hunting, the pond bottom become quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help.



Ducks and geese tend to fly towards the blind from the west or northwest as they leave the Columbia River. Other flights of geese come from behind you as they leave the closed hunting area and head towards the Columbia River. On a sunny afternoon in this west facing blind you have the sun in your eyes and it can be difficult to see and identify birds/sexes because they appear as dark silhouettes against the sky.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, green-winged teal, and pintails. If you drop a bird behind the blind the vegetation is thick and finding them can be tough without a dog.

## Blind 13A





## **Blind 14**

Access: Park in Lot C

The trail to Blind 14 is approximately 525 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly on a levee or on a mowed path and no wading is usually necessary until the last 15 yards. The last few yards is generally no more than waist deep. The fiberglass box blind sits on pilings on Deep Lake.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. Water nearly surrounds the blind and while it is generally less than waist deep to the sides, the water can get chest deep 30 yards in from the blind. The blind faces north.

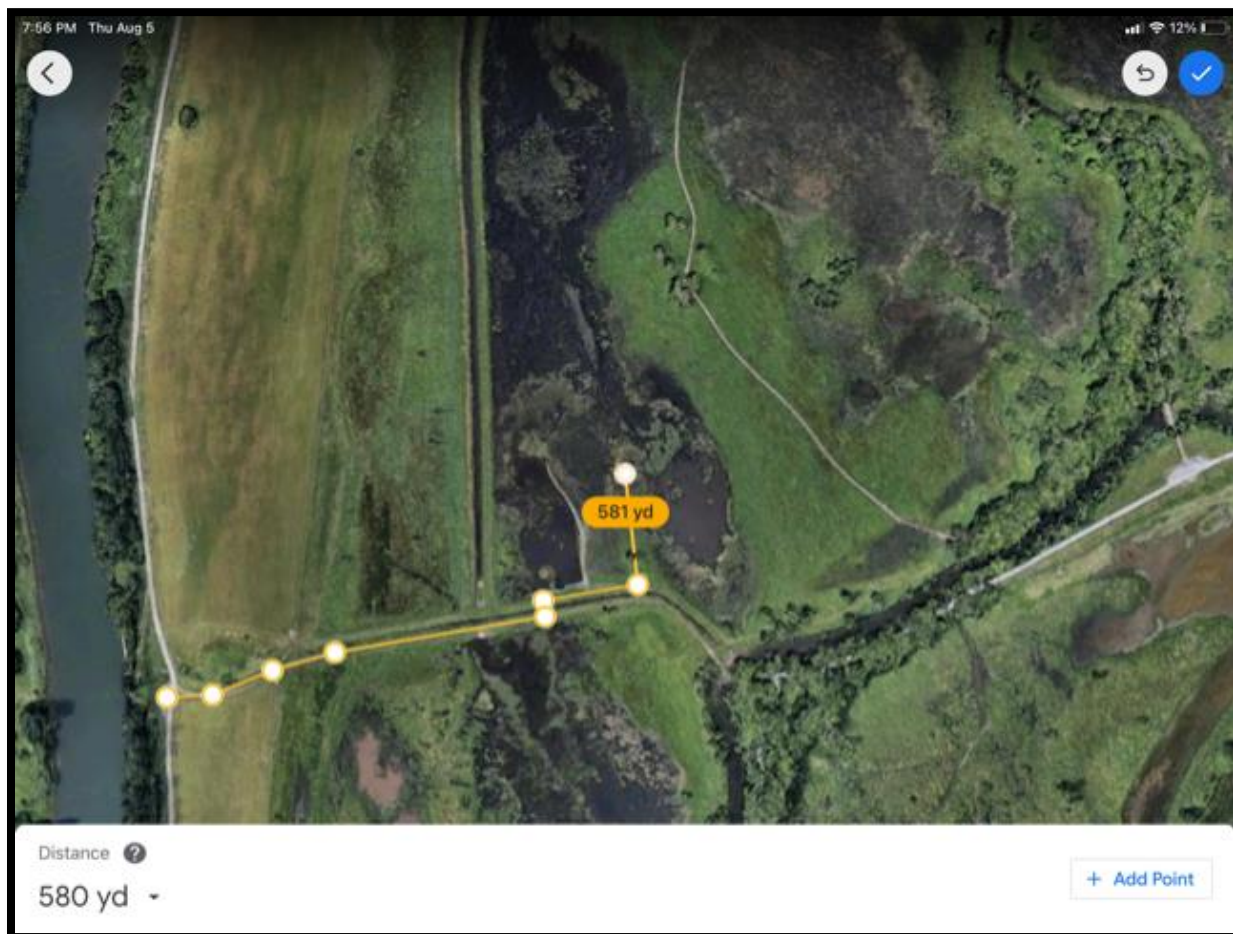
After several weeks of hunting the pond bottom becomes quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help.

Ducks tend to fly on a north to south axis, so the birds come directly towards you or come from behind you. Geese often angle towards the blind as they fly between Columbia River and the closed area on the Refuge. Their flight path is generally along a northwest to southeast axis.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, green-winged teal, widgeon, and pintails. This blind seldom disappoints. If there is a stiff south wind this blind can be especially good.



## Blind 14





## **Blind 15**

Access: Park in Lot C

The trail to Blind 15 is approximately 615 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly along the refuge road and the through a mowed grass field. Hunters may drop off their decoys and gear along the road before parking their vehicles in the parking area. This shortens the trip to the blind down to about 100 yards.

This is strictly a GOOSE HUNTING BLIND!

This is pit blind with two separate sunken boxes, a rectangular pit that accommodates two hunters and circular pit for a single hunter that sit in a mowed field. The pits are in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

There is no place for a dog to hide and keep out of the weather unless you bring a Mutt Hut or something similar. The pit blind sits in a mowed grass field with positions for three hunters. Hunters may want to bring some green camouflage netting to ensure they are well hidden.

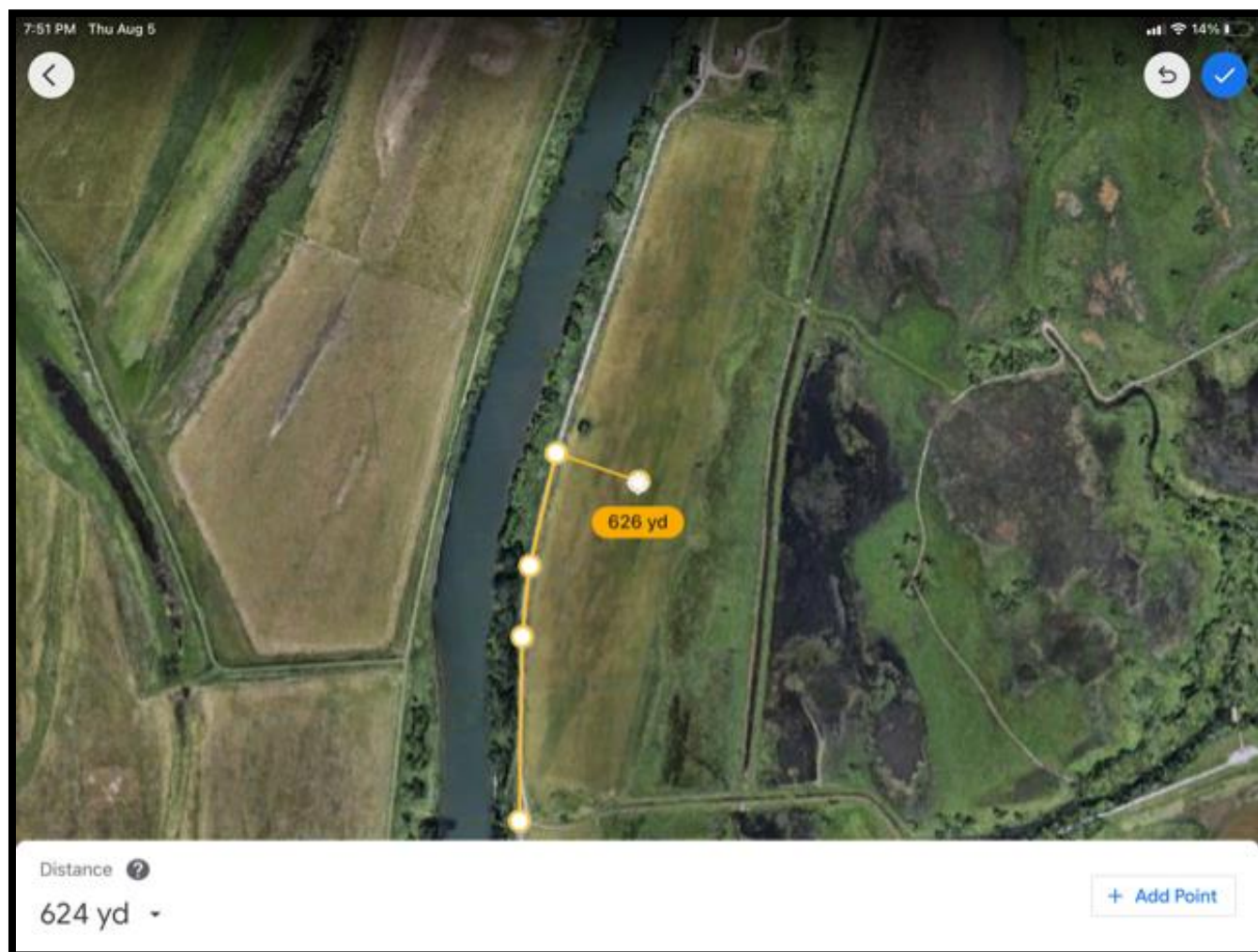
## **What to expect:**

Generally, there is no water in the field, but some sheet water may pool in low areas in the fields surrounding the blind.

Geese often angle towards the blind from as they fly between Columbia River and the closed area on the Refuge. Their flight path is generally along a northwest to southeast axis.



## Blind 15





## **Blind 16**

Access: Park in Lot C

The trail to Blind 16 is approximately 550 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly on a levee or on a mowed path and no wading is usually necessary until the last 60 yards. Wading to the blind is helped by a relatively solid gravel base if you don't veer off the path. The fiberglass box blind sits on pilings on South Lake. This blind backs up to a clump of willows and is naturally well camouflaged.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is no dog door in the blind. Water nearly surrounds the blind and while it is generally less than waist deep to the sides, the water can get chest deep 20 yards in from of the blind in the late season.

The blind faces north. After several weeks of hunting the pond bottom becomes quite slick and sticky; again, a walking stick is a real help. There is heavy flooded marsh vegetation surrounding the open water in front of the blind, so a dog is very helpful in finding wounded birds. Just east of the blind lies a no hunting area and a large lake that is a magnet for birds.



Ducks tend to fly on a north to south axis, so the birds come directly toward you or come from behind you. Geese often angle towards the blind from as they fly between Columbia River and the closed area on the Refuge. Their flight path is generally along a northwest to southeast axis.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, green-winged teal, widgeon, and pintails. This blind is a steady producer. If there is a stiff south wind this blind can be especially good.



## Blind 16





## **Blind 17**

Access: Park in Lot D

The trail to Blind 17 is approximately 420 yards. The walk to the blind is mainly on a mowed path through a grassy wet meadow. During most of the season one can get to the blind in ankle deep or less water.

### **What to expect:**

This is a sunken pit blind with three stools. This pit blind is a large rectangular fiberglass pit blind with a cover over each hunting position. The pit blind is in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

The blind does have a station for a dog that is sunken about 16 inches deep but neither hunters or dog are protected from wind and rain. The blind is oriented east to west facing north.

This blind sits at the edge of Sora Marsh and is separated away from the large bodies of water. It has its own shallow pond partially surrounded by bullrush and cattails. The pond is seasonally flooded with relatively shallow wading as most of the season the water is knee deep to waist deep.

Ducks tend to fly on a north to south axis, so the birds come directly towards you or come from behind you. Geese often angle towards the blind as they fly between Columbia River and the closed area on the Refuge. Their flight path is generally along a northwest to southeast axis.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, green-winged teal, widgeon, and pintails.



## Blind 17





## **Blind 18**

Access: Park in Lot D

The trail to Blind 18 is approximately 700 yards. The path is through a mowed grass field then a mowed trail until the last 190 yards. The pit blind sits on a small island on the north end of South Big Lake. Wading to the island is at least waist deep and sometimes more as the season advances and the rain set in. The footing can be tricky, and the bottom is uneven so take it slow and use a wading pole. A decoy sled is also very helpful all the way.

### **What to expect:**

This pit blind is a large rectangular fiberglass pit blind with a cover over each hunting position. The blind does have a station for a dog that is sunken about 16 inches deep but both hunters and dog are not protected from wind and rain. The pit blind is in the open, so be prepared to endure the weather of the day.

Water surrounds the blind. In late season, cover for the hunters becomes sparse so you may want to bring some brown camouflage netting to keep hidden. The blind faces east.

The South Big Lake is an extensive area of flooded marsh with open water areas. In front of the blind and to each side are open water areas. The area behind the blind is flooded but with lots of vegetation.

A trained retriever can be a real asset in hunting this blind. This can be a great blind any time during the year and is a favorite. Hunters often will put out some decoys with a lot of white to draw birds as this is a big marsh and you want to get the attention of birds swinging by. Birds can come at you from any direction so scan the skies all around you.

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include shovelers, widgeon, mallards, green-winged teal, buffleheads, gadwalls and pintails. This pond tends to attract several divers and goldeneyes and canvasbacks are infrequently taken. Remember if you intend to shoot at a goldeneye, one must have a Sea Duck Harvest card. Hunters are very likely to also get shots at passing geese. This is a very popular blind and typically one of the top producers every year.



## Blind 18





## **Blind 19**

Access: Park in Lot D

The trail to Blind 19 is approximately 1,018 yards. The path is through a mowed grass field then a mowed trail until the last 100 yards. The flooded path to the blinds is typically knee to mid-thigh deep. The fiberglass box blind sits on pilings and backs up to a clump of willows and is naturally well camouflaged.

### **What to expect:**

This is a large fiberglass box blind. This blind does a good job keeping you out of the weather. There is a dog door and ramp in the blind. Water wraps around the blind on three sides. The water to the sides of the blind is generally no more than waist deep. Out in front of the blind the water can get waist deep or deeper. One can typically walk completely across the pond.

The blind faces predominantly east. Wading is generally good, but a wading stick helps especially as the water levels increase later in the season.

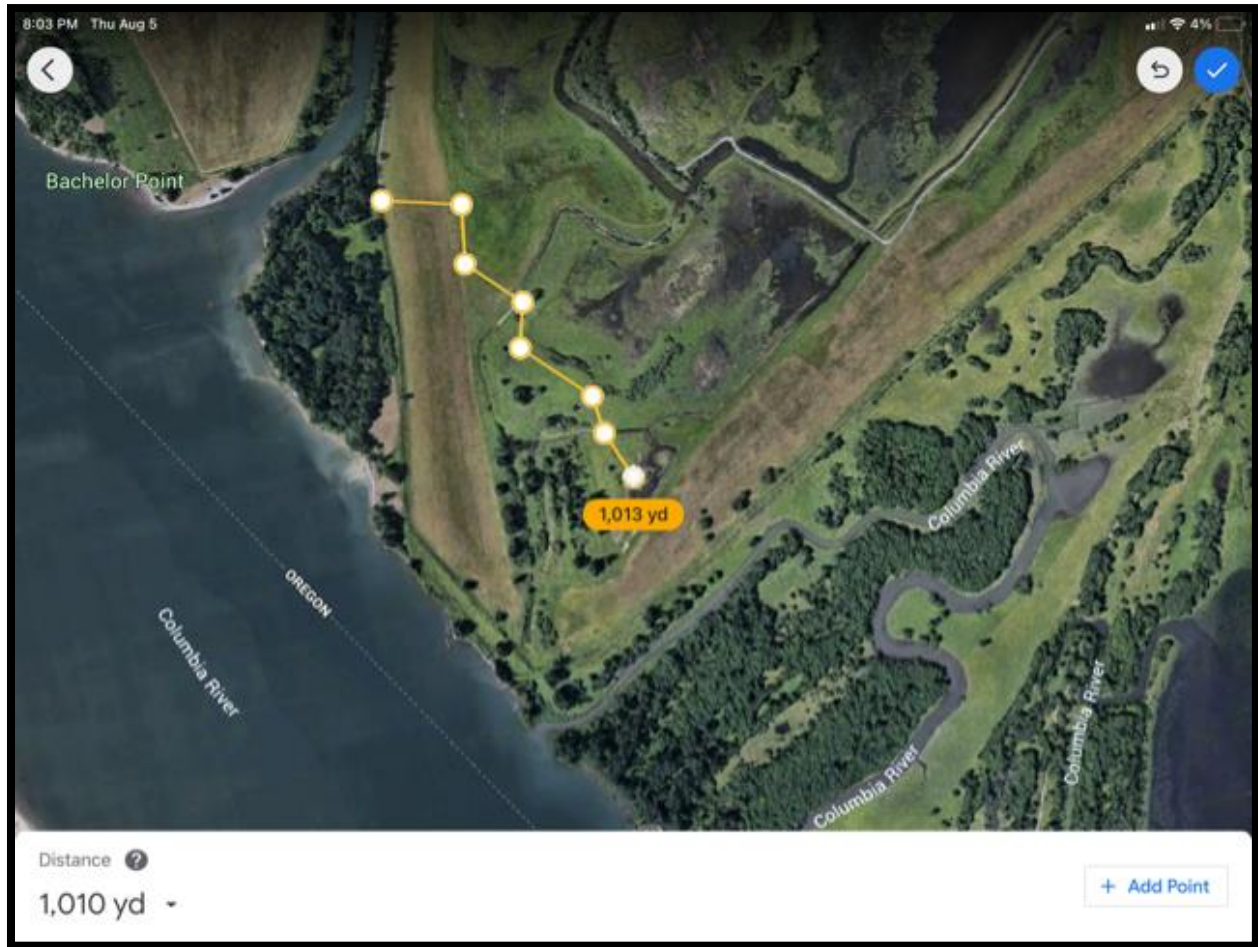
Ducks tend to fly into the area from all directions except from directly behind the blind. Geese often angle towards the blind along a northwest to southeast axis as they travel between Columbia River and the closed area on the Refuge.

Be aware as this area seems to be a favored flight path of Dusky Canada geese which are protected. Be sure of your bird before pulling the trigger!

Expect a good variety of birds. Commonly bagged birds include geese, shovelers, mallards, green-winged teal, widgeon, gadwall and pintails. This blind is a steady producer and a favorite of hunters despite the long walk.



## Blind 19



\*Special thanks to Rich Hannan for photo and information for this guide and all his work prepping the blinds