



# **Staten Island Hunter Handbook**

California Waterfowl  
2025-2026 Waterfowl Season

N Walnut Grove Rd and N Staten Island Road  
Thornton, CA 95686

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# **California Waterfowl Hunt Program**

## **Staten Island Hunt Details**

The Delta island is 9,200 acres and located roughly 10 miles east of Rio Vista. It is home to thousands of wintering ducks, geese, swans and cranes. A large population of Aleutian geese winter on the island. Crops consist of corn, triticale, potatoes and hay. Hunters will hunt from pit-blinds, in flooded rice fields. Water depth range from 6 to 24 inches. Blind stools and decoys provided.

**Special Conditions:** Hunting will end at 10 AM. Each group must consist of at least two hunters. Hunt winner must bring a guest. Five groups will be drawn each hunt date. Groups will draw for blinds before the morning hunt.

**Capacity:** Three hunters

**Google Link:** [Click here](#)

### **Hunt details:**

- **Hunt Date: Check-in, 2 hours before legal shoot time. Please do not be late for check-in.**
- Note: All hunters and guests need to register online *individually* using the Hunt Confirmation link. Please forward registration link to all guest hunters. Hunts canceled due to flooding or unforeseen conditions will not be made up or refunded.
- 3 dz+ decoys located inside blind (duck and goose floaters). It is encouraged to bring your own goose decoys. Decoy carts are permitted.
- Hunters may bring personal decoys.
- Must have at least two people in hunting party. May not hunt alone.
- All parties will park in designated parking and walk to the blind.
- Hunt ends at 10:00 AM.

- Hunters must be picked up and out of field no later than 11:00 AM. No exceptions.

**What to bring:**

- Recommended: All hunting gear, including valid 2025-2026 hunting license, HIP Stamp, CA Duck Stamp, Federal Duck Stamp, ear and eye protection, steel ammunition, gun, floating gun case, waders, camouflage jacket, hat, gloves, food/drinks, and warm clothes.
- **Bring signed Staten Island liability waiver. Located on page 12-13.**

**When you arrive:**

- You will be checked in by a California Waterfowl representative.
- Check-in at small building near grain silos.
- **Note:** If you arrive early, please wait in your vehicle until a CWA representative arrives.
- **A hunt draw will take place the morning of.** Please don't be late for check-in. The draw can start without you.
- Keep dogs and guns locked up in your vehicle until ready to leave for blinds in the morning. Dogs should be kept on a leash until you reach your hunting blind.

**If you have any questions prior to the hunt date, please contact:**

|                |                |                                         |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Josh Marshall  | (707) 815-3694 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Tanner Huntley | (530) 906-7768 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Olivia Vinding | (916) 804-1142 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Carson Odegard | (916) 960-9848 | Hunt Program Coordinator                |
| Jeff Smith     | (530) 305-9234 | Director Hunting and Education Programs |

## **2025 – 2026 Waterfowl Shoot Times**

Check-in, 2 hours before legal shooting time.

Please do not be late for check-in.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Sacramento</b>                       |                    |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
|             | <b>AM (half an hour before sunrise)</b> | <b>PM (sunset)</b> |
| October 18  | 6:49                                    | 6:24               |
| October 25  | 6:56                                    | 6:14               |
| November 1  | 7:04                                    | 6:06               |
| November 2* | 6:05                                    | 5:05               |
| November 8  | 6:11                                    | 4:59               |
| November 15 | 6:19                                    | 4:53               |
| November 22 | 6:26                                    | 4:49               |
| November 29 | 6:34                                    | 4:46               |
| December 6  | 6:40                                    | 4:45               |
| December 13 | 6:46                                    | 4:46               |
| December 20 | 6:50                                    | 4:48               |
| December 27 | 6:53                                    | 4:52               |
| January 3   | 6:54                                    | 4:58               |
| January 10  | 6:54                                    | 5:04               |
| January 17  | 6:52                                    | 5:11               |
| January 24  | 6:48                                    | 5:19               |

## **Directions to Staten Island**

**N Staten Island Road, Thornton, CA 95686**

Google Link: [Click here](#)

### **From Sacramento:**

- Take I-5 South towards Los Angeles
- Take exit 493 towards Walnut Grove
- In 0.2 miles turn right onto W Walnut Grove Road
- In 3.8 miles turn left onto N Staten Island Road
- The check station will be in 0.3 miles on your right

### **From Vallejo:**

- Take I-80 East to CA-12 East towards Rio Vista
- Continue down CA-12 for about 42 miles
- Turn left for I-5 towards Sacramento
- In 7.8 miles take exit 493 towards Walnut Grove
- In 0.2 miles turn right onto W Walnut Grove Road
- In 3.8 miles turn left onto N Staten Island Road
- The check station will be in 0.3 miles on your right

### **From Stockton:**

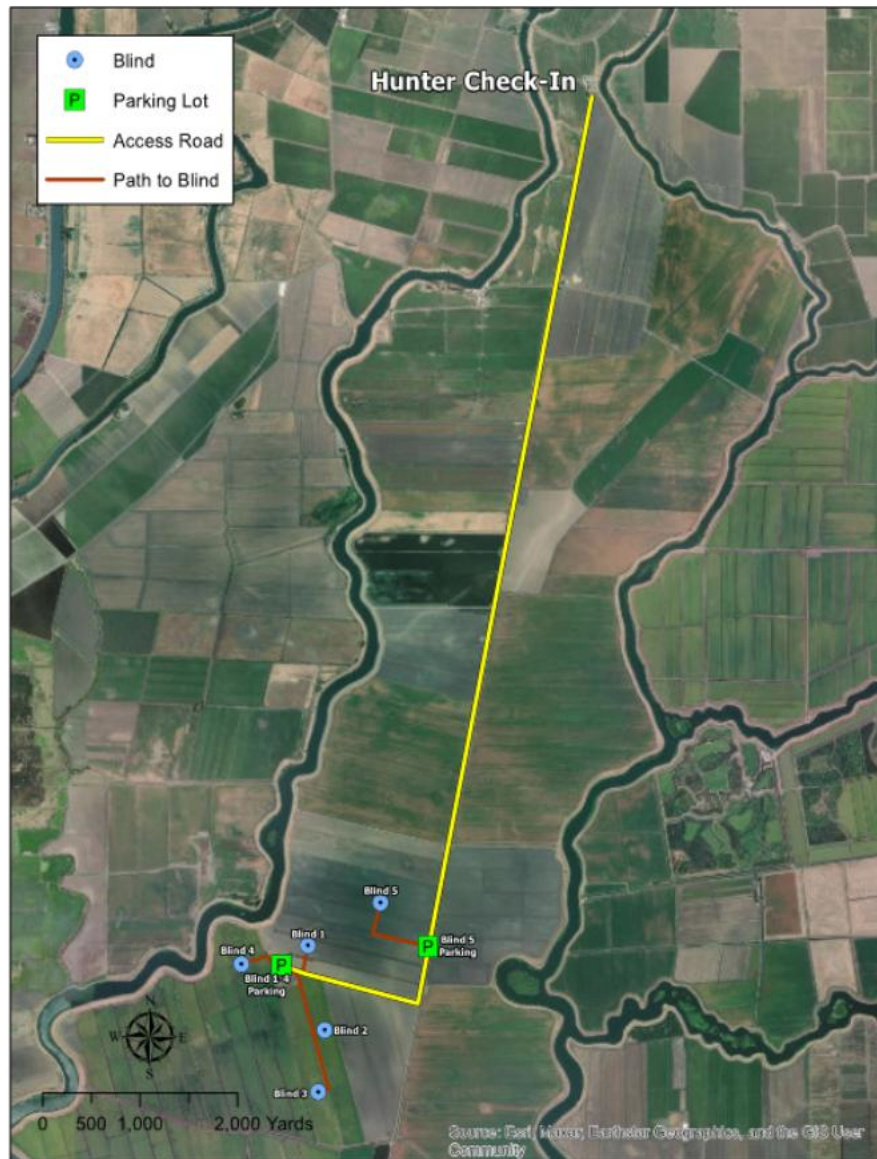
- Take I-5 North towards Sacramento
- Take exit 493 towards Walnut Grove
- In 0.2 miles turn right onto W Walnut Grove Road
- In 3.8 miles turn left onto N Staten Island Road
- The check station will be in 0.3 miles on your right



# CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL

## Hunt Program

Staten Island





# CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL

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Staten Island





## **Blind Descriptions**

Blind 1-5– Rice blind with three dozen Texas rigged duck decoys and 6-12 texas rigged goose decoys.

## **Staten Island Duck Blind – Instructions**

1. Park in designated parking lot.
  1. Do not drive on roads that are not marked on the hunt map.
  2. Do not drive on any road without gravel.
2. Walk to blind following white signs to blind.
3. Must hunt from drawn blind.
4. Be courteous of other hunters and wildlife viewers.
5. 10:00 AM end of hunt.
6. All trash and empty shell casings need to be picked up. Please leave the blind better than you found it.
7. The decoys need to be picked up, attach lines to decoy clips and store back in blind.
8. Be sure to pick up all gear you brought with you.
9. If you need to contact the onsite coordinator for any reason, use your cell phone.
10. Must check-out at hunter check-station before leaving.
11. All blinds will return to check station via the same route (opposite direction) they came in.

## **Phone Number Contacts**

|                |                |                                         |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Josh Marshall  | (707) 815-3694 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Tanner Huntley | (530) 906-7768 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Olivia Vinding | (916) 804-1142 | Hunt Program Technician                 |
| Carson Odegard | (916) 960-9848 | Hunt Program Coordinator                |
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## **Blind Safety Rules**

1. Muzzle pointed in a safe direction – ALWAYS!!!
2. Finger off the trigger until ready to shoot – ALWAYS!!!
3. Make sure the safety is on until you are ready to shoot – ALWAYS!!!
4. Open the actions when hunters/dogs are retrieving game, no shooting at cripples and flying birds when dog/hunters are out of blind
5. Shooters “Safe zone of fire” should be established in front of shooter, not behind or over anyone’s head. Use the imaginary clock example of 10 o’clock and 2 o’clock in front of the shooter. Talk about where each shooter will be shooting prior to the start of shoot time

## **The Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety**

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Watch that Muzzle! Be able to control the direction of the muzzle at all times.
3. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
4. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
5. Unload guns when not in use.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
7. Never climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.
8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. Do not drink alcoholic beverages or use mind altering drugs before or during shooting.

## **CFR Hunter Rules and Restrictions**

Respect the other activities and property on Staten Island:

- Do not smoke, build fires, cook, or camp on Staten Island.
- Take all litter and waste with you when you leave.
- Do not destroy, harm, harass, or collect vegetation (any parts, live or dead) or animals other than hunted waterfowl and game birds.
- Avoid bringing any live plants, seeds, cut flowers, horses or other animals/pets other than hunting dogs that have up-to-date licenses and vaccinations.
- Allow tenants, researchers, agricultural and farm workers, and other visitors to conduct their activities in peace.
- Except by prior written approval by Conservation Farms & Ranches, stay out of buildings and other structures other than hunting blinds and the duck shack.
- Digging in any Indian mounds or architectural remains is prohibited. Do not collect or take anything found at Staten Island other than harvested waterfowl and game birds.
- If a potential problem with levees or water conditions arises, inform the CFR President or Conservation Program Manager immediately.

Follow vehicle rules:

- Vehicle use is restricted to existing roadways or to enter remote portions of Staten Island to retrieve harvested waterfowl.
- Avoid beaming headlights at crane roost sites, especially before dawn.
- Observe the 25 MPH Staten Island speed limit throughout the hunting season and the remainder of the crane wintering season (mid-September to mid-March). On non-paved roads adjacent to flooded areas, drive as slowly as possible before sunrise.
- Off-road vehicles and ATVs are prohibited.

Engage in only permitted hunting:

- Know and follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations, bag/possession limits, and season rules.
- Always hunt in a group of at least two people.
- Trapping and poisoning are prohibited.
- Only hunt waterfowl.
- Hunt waterfowl from only approved blinds. Access blinds by the shortest passable route that is not near an active crane roosting site.
- Waterfowl hunting is restricted to Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, as well as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
- Waterfowl hunting (including scouting and setting up decoys and blinds) is limited to mornings, when cranes are away from roosts, on hunting days.
- Sign out after ceasing hunting for the day and record all species and numbers of birds harvested.

## **WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN HUNTING ACTIVITIES**

**Staten Island, County of San Joaquin, California**

**Date:**

**Name of Hunter:**

In consideration of my participation as a hunter on Staten Island, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed by Conservation Farms & Ranches ("CFR"), I state and agree as follows:

1. I am understand and agree to follow the rules associated with hunting on Staten Island, including those on the last page of this agreement.
2. I am in good health, and I am aware of no physical problem or condition which will limit or interfere with my ability to participate in hunting on Staten Island under either predicted or emergency conditions. I also understand that medical attention may not be readily available.
3. I agree to exercise the highest degree of care in the conduct of my hunting activities on Staten Island, so as to avoid the risk of personal injury or property damage.  
I acknowledge that hunting is inherently dangerous and that I am aware of the risk and dangers involved in the hunting activities, which include, but are not limited to, injuries resulting from the use of firearms, accidents or illnesses occurring in remote places without medical facilities, dangers caused by other hunters and preserve visitors, and dangers resulting from natural and man-made conditions in the hunting area.
4. I hereby assume all responsibility for any injury to persons or damages to property which occur in connection with my use of Staten Island for hunting.

On behalf of myself, my heirs, successors and assigns, I hereby forever release, indemnify and hold CFR, The Nature Conservancy, and their officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising from or in any way related to, my presence or activities on Staten Island. I intend this release to be effective, regardless of whether the claim of liability is asserted in negligence, strict liability in tort, or other theory of recovery.

I further agree to be responsible for any injuries or damage caused by my failure to follow instructions or because of any inaccurate statements I have made in this release.

5. I agree that I am hunting on the Preserve at my own risk, and acknowledge that CFR and The Nature Conservancy have made no warranty or representation, express or implied, regarding the safety of hunting on Staten Island.

6. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have thoroughly read and understand this form and that the statements I have made in it are all true, and that I am at least 18 years of age or, if I am not 18 years of age, the signature and consent of my parent or legal guardian is included below.

---

Signature of Hunter Date

**Acknowledgment by Authorized CWA agent**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have thoroughly reviewed this form with the hunter named above.

---

Signature of CWA agent Date

**PARENTAL CONSENT FOR HUNTING BY MINORS**

I am the parent or legal guardian of , who has my permission to hunt on Staten Island. I make all of the representations and agree to all of the terms specified above with respect to my child's or ward's participation in these activities.

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Printed Name:

Date: