

**Regulations Applying to Permanent Waterfowl Blinds Installed on the Swan Creek WMA  
2018-2019 Season**

- (9) It shall be unlawful to install permanent waterfowl hunting blinds (those using building materials and/or remaining in position overnight) anywhere on the Swan Creek or Mallard-Fox Creek Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) except on the Swan Creek WMA dewatering unit where specified. All such blinds to be placed in the dewatering area must be registered with Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division officials in accordance with the following conditions:
- (a) The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division's Blind Governing Committee shall be the final authority in resolving any dispute concerning permanent waterfowl blinds. The Blind Governing Committee shall be made up of the following people: District I Conservation Enforcement Supervisor; two Conservation Enforcement Officers; District I Supervising Wildlife Biologist and the Area Biologist for Swan Creek WMA. **See also subsection (k) concerning the authority of the Blind Governing Committee.**
  - (b) Blinds must meet "Qualifications and Registration Procedures" established by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division and deemed acceptable by an inspecting team in order to be approved for use. Copies of the "Qualifications and Registration Procedures" may be obtained by writing Area Biologist Drew Able, Swan Creek WMA, 21453 Harris Station Road Tanner, AL 35671, by telephoning the District 1 Office at (256) 353-2634 or email [Drew.Able@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Drew.Able@dcnr.alabama.gov).
  - (c) All blinds will be tagged by Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employees. The tag must remain attached to the blind for the duration of the blind's stay on the Area. Tags shall not be moved to a different blind. It is the hunter's responsibility to make sure the blind they hunt from is properly tagged. No person may hunt from an untagged blind. **See also subsection (k).**
  - (d) All permanent waterfowl hunting blinds will be registered between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. on the **first Saturday of October**. Only one blind may be registered per individual. Only persons 16 years of age and older may register a blind. The registrant must present all valid licenses and stamps required for them to hunt at Swan Creek WMA. Ages 16 through 64 must have an Alabama Hunting License, WMA License, Federal Waterfowl Stamp, Alabama State Waterfowl Stamp and HIP verification. Ages 65 and greater must possess a Federal Waterfowl Stamp to hunt waterfowl. Owners of blinds must present their blind number receipt at the registration table in order to complete their registration. Only fifty (50) permanent blinds will be installed at preselected sites in the dewatering area. All registered blinds receiving one of the 50 preselected sites must be installed as near as possible to the preselected site prior to gate closing on **the first Saturday of November**. **See also subsection (k).**
  - (e) Each **selected** blind must be **completely** camouflaged with natural material (cane, oak limbs, Fast Grass®, or similar materials) **except** for the boat entrance and the shooting holes before being placed in the dewatering unit. Camouflaged netting, burlap or other similar materials will not be accepted as camouflage, except when used to cover the boat entrance and/or shooting holes. Inadequately camouflaged blinds on the water will be disqualified. **See also subsection (k).**
  - (f) In order for a blind to be eligible to be hunted from it must be anchored within 10 feet of the appropriate blind location marker. Blinds must remain within 10 feet of the blind location marker during the entire waterfowl season. This is not intended to prevent a blind owner from removing his blind from the WMA. Blind markers shall not be moved or otherwise altered or tampered with. If it is determined by the Blind Governing Committee that a blind marker has been moved or otherwise altered or tampered with, that blind shall be subject to disqualification from hunting by the Blind Governing Committee. **See also subsection (k).**
  - (g) No blind may be attached to the location marker in any way. If a blind is found to be attached to a marker, all hunters in the blind will be deemed to be in violation of this regulation. **See also subsection (k).**
  - (h) Blinds that are drawn and installed in the dewatering unit must be completely removed from the WMA no later than **the second Sunday in February**. Any blind not drawn and installed on one of the 50 sites must be removed from the WMA by sunset of the day following the opening day of waterfowl season. (This includes all blinds within the boundaries of the Swan Creek WMA). Any such blinds, trailers, or parts thereof remaining on the WMA after the above dates shall be deemed to be the property of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and shall be utilized or destroyed as deemed advisable by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division.
  - (i) Anyone launching a boat preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit may not depart any launch site before 2:00 AM daily. With the exception above, all other hunters preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit shall not be allowed in the water before 2:00 AM daily. All boats and boat blinds used in the harvest of waterfowl within the dewatering area shall be floated to an approved launching site for overnight mooring or removed from the dewatering unit no later than 7:00 PM daily.
  - (j) Dewatering area access gates will be closed on **the first Saturday of November at sunset and will open by 2:00 AM the first morning of waterfowl season**. During waterfowl seasons that have a split, the gates will close at sunset the last hunting day of the first segment and will reopen at 2:00 AM on the first morning of the second segment. Decoy days will be the first Friday and Saturday of November, ending at sunset on Saturday. No boats with motors are allowed in the dewatering unit during the period gates are closed except as specified on decoy days.
  - (k) The Committee shall have the authority to disqualify any blind if a dispute occurs and it cannot be resolved; or for any violation involving Blind Regulations or Permanent Blind Qualifications and Registration Procedures; or for any violation of any portion of this section of the regulation pertaining to the Swan Creek dewatering area. **Any blind that is disqualified by the Committee shall be deemed immediately ineligible to be hunted from and shall be removed from the dewatering unit for the remainder of the waterfowl season following notification of the blind owner. The blind owner will have 48 hours in which to move the blind to an approved launch site for mooring and no more than seven-days following notification of disqualification, for its complete removal from the WMA. Should the blind owner of a disqualified blind fail to move the blind to an approved launch for mooring and/or to completely remove any such blinds, trailers, or parts thereof from the Area within the specified times listed above, the blind shall be deemed to be the property of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and shall be utilized or destroyed as deemed advisable by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division.**

**Permanent Blind Qualifications, Registration and Drawing Procedures  
For Swan Creek Dewatering Area -- 2018-2019 Season**

- **Blinds will need to be as close to the blind marker as possible by the first Saturday of November. Blinds that are not on the spot can still be hunted as long as they are not within 150 yards of another blind.**
  - **Do not remove crops or vegetation from the area for your blind.**
1. All permanent waterfowl blinds to be placed in the dewatering area must be registered at the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) prior to being installed in the dewatering area. No blinds will be installed in the dewatering area prior to the drawing, nor will any blinds be placed anywhere except the specified locations.
  2. To qualify for the drawing, each blind must be presented at the Swan Creek WMA **and be marked by a numbered tag. The registrant will receive a blind receipt to deliver to the registration table to complete their registration process.** Copies of the "Qualifications and Registration Procedures" may be obtained by writing Area Biologist Drew Able, Swan Creek WMA, 21453 Harris Station Road, Tanner, AL 35671, by telephoning the District 1 Office at (256) 353-2634, or email [Drew.Able@dnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Drew.Able@dnr.alabama.gov) . **Before the blind is tagged the owner, if between the ages of 16 and 65, is required to present their valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp to hunt waterfowl, Hunting License, WMA License, Alabama State Waterfowl Stamp and HIP verification. Hunters, the age of 65 and older, must present their Federal Duck Stamp.**
    - a. The blind must be capable of containing and concealing a boat that is separate from the blind.
    - b. All blinds must be floating blinds, utilizing Styrofoam blocks **completely protected from muskrat damage** by wire, metal or Styrofoam filled pontoons for flotation. No barrels may be used in any form for flotation - this includes barrels filled with Styrofoam.
    - c. Blinds must be safe, serviceable, and able to withstand harsh wind and water conditions and deemed so by the inspecting official.
    - d. **The blind construction must be complete and in usable condition, ready for installation except for the shooter's hole doors and boat entrance. This includes any components for the attachment of camouflage (wire mesh, plywood, etc.), floors and/or side access doors on blinds designed for their use. The blind does not have to be camouflaged for registration.**
    - e. **Only poles with slip collars will be allowed as anchors for permanent blinds. A minimum of 2 slip collars and poles will be required for anchoring per blind. Slip collars must be securely attached to the blind at the time of inspection.**
  3. Registration of blinds will be from 8:30 AM till 10:00 AM, **on the first Saturday in October.** Owners must be present during the hours of tagging, registration, drawing and inspection if selected. Prior to being tagged a blind owner, **age 16 to 64, is required to present their valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp to hunt waterfowl, Hunting License, WMA License, Alabama State Waterfowl Stamp and HIP verification. Hunters, age 65 and older, must present their Federal Duck Stamp.** If selected the blind owner must present a valid photo ID. **No one other than the registered blind owner may conduct business related to a blind.**
  4. All blinds entered in the drawing will be identified by the placement of a numbered tag on the blind without inspection. The blind owner will be given a blind receipt to complete the registration process. The blind owner must present the blind receipt at the registration table in order to complete their registration. Once this information has been received, the owner's name and blind number will be placed in a container for the random drawing.
  5. The drawing will be held at the Swan Creek WMA in the main parking lot of the dewatering area located in the "Pines" as soon after 10:00 AM as completion of registration allows on **the first Saturday of October**; anyone wishing to participate in the drawing must have his/her blind registered prior to 10:00 AM.
  6. 50 blinds and registrants will be drawn and 10 alternates. The 50 blind locations will be drawn first and the 10 alternates will be drawn last. The blind locations will be drawn in order beginning with blind location number one. As blinds and registrants are drawn they must present a photo ID before being escorted to the blind for inspection. As each selection is made a Conservation employee will accompany the owner to the blind for inspection. Digital images of the owner, their blind and blind tag number will be made. **The blind will be inspected ONE TIME. Any blind NOT PASSING INSPECTION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.** Images and notes will be made to document the reasons why the blind failed inspection. The 10 alternates will be utilized in the order they were drawn to replace blinds that fail inspection. One of the original 50 selected names will be drawn. **This person will have fifteen seconds to confirm or deny acceptance of the blind location being drawn for.** If the person drawn denies the blind location, that blind is **ejected from the remainder of the drawing.** Any blind location not selected will be available to the alternates in the order that the alternates were initially drawn. Any blind locations left open at the end of this process will remain open for the season.
  7. **Access gates will be closed at sunset on the first Saturday of November.** All blinds must be on their location by sunset on the first Saturday of November, or the location will be forfeited to an alternate draw. Any alternate selected may install their blind **after** contacting the area biologist. Any blind not drawn and installed on one of the 50 sites must be removed from the WMA by sunset of the day following the opening day of waterfowl season. (This includes all blinds within the boundaries of the Swan Creek WMA). Any such blinds, trailers, or parts thereof remaining on the WMA after the above dates shall be deemed to be the property of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and shall be utilized or destroyed as deemed advisable by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division.
  8. **Decoy days will be the first Friday and Saturday of November, ending at sunset on Saturday**

**AS A SAFE AND ETHICAL HUNTER ON THE SWAN CREEK WMA  
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE WATERFOWL SEASON TO MAINTAIN A  
DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 150 YARDS BETWEEN ANY OTHER PARTY HUNTING  
IN THE DEWATERING UNIT.**