

**Regulations Applying to Selected Waterfowl Blinds on the Swan Creek WMA
2020-2021 Season**

(7) It shall be unlawful to construct and/or utilize permanent waterfowl hunting blinds (those using building materials and/or remaining in position overnight) anywhere on the Swan Creek, Mallard-Fox Creek, or Jackson County Waterfowl Area (Mud Creek, Crow Creek, and Raccoon Creek) WMAs, except on the Swan Creek WMA dewatering unit where specified. All such blinds to be placed in the Swan Creek WMA dewatering unit must be registered in accordance with the following conditions:

(a) The allocation of blinds will be determined through a limited quota system by random selection for individuals 16 years of age or older. In order to apply, ALL applicants are required to obtain a Conservation Identification Number (CID); those who are 16 to 64 years of age must have a hunting license (All Game, Small Game, or Heritage license), State Duck Stamp, and a WMA license to register for the blind drawing. Applicants will be processed through www.outdooralabama.com. Any violation of rules, regulations, or laws by permit holder or guest while hunting the dewatering unit will result in that individual losing their eligibility for the remainder of the waterfowl season and their blind being disqualified for the remainder of the season. The disqualified blind will have to be removed within 48 hours of notification. All waterfowl hunting blinds of selected applicants must be at Swan Creek WMA between the hours of 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM on the first Saturday of October for inspection. Only thirty (30) selected blinds will be installed at predetermined sites in the dewatering unit. All registered blinds receiving one of the 30 predetermined sites must be installed at the predetermined blind location marker prior to gate closing on the first Saturday of November.

(b) Blinds must meet the Selected Blind Specifications established by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and deemed acceptable by an inspecting team in order to be approved for use. For information or a copy of the procedures, call (256) 353-2634.

(c) All blinds passing inspection will be tagged by a Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries employee. 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.

(d) The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division's Blind Governing Committee shall be the final authority in resolving any dispute concerning selected 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 Wildlife Biologist for the Swan Creek AREA.

(e) Each selected blind must be completely camouflaged with natural material (cane, oak limbs, or other 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.

(f) Selected blinds 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. Blind markers shall not be moved or otherwise altered or tampered with. 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. 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.

(g) Any blind location that is unoccupied by the selected party 30 minutes prior to legal shooting hours may be utilized by the public.

(h) The removal of all blinds shall be conducted from the Sunday following the February youth/veteran waterfowl hunt to no later than the **third** Sunday of February.

(i) Anyone launching a boat or preparing to hunt waterfowl within the dewatering unit may not depart any launch site or enter the water before 3:00 AM daily and must be out of the water no later than 7:00 PM daily.

(j) Dewatering area access gates will be closed on the first Saturday in November at sunset and will be opened by 3:00 AM the opening day of waterfowl season. No activity is allowed in or around the dewatering unit during the period gates are closed.

(k) It shall be unlawful to hunt waterfowl within 150 yards of an occupied or unoccupied blind on Swan Creek WMA Dewatering Unit.

(l) It shall be unlawful to be within the Swan Creek WMA dewatering unit on youth/veteran waterfowl hunt days unless you are a hunting veteran, a youth hunter, or accompanying a hunting veteran or youth (only the veteran or youth may hunt).

(m) The committee shall have the authority to disqualify any blind if a dispute occurs and it cannot be resolved; or for any violation involving Selected Blind Specifications; 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 WMA 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.

**Selected Blind Specifications
2020-2021 Season**

- Do not remove crops or vegetation from the Area for your blind. Blind material must be brought in from outside the WMA.

1. Only the 30 selected blinds must be inspected at the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on the First Saturday in October at 8am prior to being installed in the dewatering area. Alternates will be contacted after initial inspections are completed if openings are available.
2. The blind must be capable of containing and concealing a boat that is separate from the blind. Additionally, the blind must have a hunting compartment built in from which hunting activities occur separate from the boat (no boat blinds).
 - a. 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.
 - b. Blinds must be safe, serviceable, and able to withstand harsh wind and water conditions and deemed so by the inspecting official.
 - c. Upon inspection, the blind 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 inspection.
 - d. 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. 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. Any blind location that is open after inspection 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. Any alternate selected may install their blind after contacting the Area Biologist.
8. Decoys will be allowed to be brought in on 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.