

Princess Anne WMA Quota Hunts — Hunter FAQ

#102 (*Impoundment Waterfowl Hunts*)

#107 (*Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl*)

#112 (*Early Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl*)

General Application & Selection Process

Hunt #102 (Impoundment) is a date-and-tract reservation, not a ranked multi-day series. The prioritization answers below apply to Hunts #107 and #112 only — see the Hunt #102 section for how that hunt's selection works.

Q: How do I get selected to hunt?

A: Applicants apply for Hunt #102, Hunt #107, and/or Hunt #112 during the statewide quota hunt application period on Go Outdoors VA. For Hunts #107 and #112, each hunter who applies is randomly assigned a drawing number for every day they applied for. Hunt #102 works differently — see the Hunt #102 section below.

Q: What is “prioritization” and how does it work?

A: When you apply for Hunt #107 or #112, you rank every hunt date in the series from most to least preferred (1st priority, 2nd priority, and so on). Every applicant may rank every eligible date — no date is ever removed from the list or made unavailable to rank. For each date, position numbers are assigned by a weighted random draw: the higher you ranked that date, the more weight — i.e., the more chances — you are given in that date's draw. Ranking a date higher does not guarantee a low position number, but it improves your odds relative to ranking it lower.

EXAMPLE

If a series has 7 hunt dates, ranking a date as your 1st priority gives you 7 times as many chances at a low position number for that date as you would have if you ranked that same date as your 7th priority. Every applicant still receives a position number for every date they applied for regardless of how they ranked it — prioritization only shifts the odds of a favorable (low) number, it does not exclude anyone from any date or guarantee any hunter a specific number.

Q: What are the benefits of prioritization for hunters?

A: Prioritization lets you align your best odds with the dates that actually work for you. Not every hunter has the same schedule or weather/migration preferences, so instead of a single flat drawing where every hunter has identical odds on every date, you can concentrate your best chances on the dates you most want — for example, a date you know you're available for, or one more likely to have good duck weather. No hunter is excluded from any date by ranking it lower; you still receive a position number for every date you applied for. Prioritization simply lets you weight your own odds toward the dates that matter most to you, rather than leaving every date to identical, undifferentiated chance.

Q: Is there still a standby drawing for hunters who didn't apply?

A: Yes for Hunts #107 and #112, no for Hunt #102 (the impoundment hunt), until further notice. A recent partnership with Delta Waterfowl is allowing reinstatement of the standby system for the float blind stake hunts (#107 and #112). For Hunt #102, standby drawings are discontinued due to staff vacancies in the work unit and should be treated as discontinued going forward; an electronic system is being developed to replace and improve on the traditional in-person standby drawing.

Q: I missed the application deadline. Can I still hunt?

A: Yes, for Hunts #107 and #112, through the standby offering. Draws begin promptly at 5:00 a.m. and are typically finished within five minutes — you must be present by 5:00 a.m. to participate. There is no standby for Hunt #102; only the hunter randomly selected for a given hunt day (and their guests) may participate on that date.

Day-of Blind Selection (Hunts #107 & #112)

Q: How does the morning draw work?

A: Drawings begin promptly at 5:00 a.m. at the Princess Anne WMA headquarters, with or without a hunt administrator present. The hunter with the lowest assigned position number for that day selects first from the 43 available floating blind stakes, followed by the next-lowest number, and so on until all present hunters have selected or all stakes are taken. If any blind stakes remain unclaimed, hunters without a number assigned through the quota application (standbys) are then allowed to claim a blind stake until stakes run out.

Q: What if I arrive after 5:00 a.m.?

A: Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. with no exceptions. Arrive before the drawing begins to ensure you can select a stake with your assigned number.

Q: What if a hunt administrator is unable to show?

A: This hunt format depends on the human element, and while our hunt administrators are all dedicated volunteers, uncontrollable things do sometimes happen. If this occurs on your hunt day, the hunters present will be responsible for self-organizing and conducting the draw. Hunters shall file themselves by draw number for the respective hunt day and claim blind stakes in that order, referencing the blind stake map available online at the PAWMA webpage.

Q: Can I hunt from a different stake than the one I selected?

A: No. Once you select a blind stake, you are required to hunt from that stake for the day.

Guests, Gear & Access

The guest and gear answers below apply to Hunts #107 and #112. Hunt #102 has its own guest limit and gear rules — see the Hunt #102 section below.

Q: Can I bring guests?

A: Yes. Selected hunters may bring as many guests as their boat can legally hold, as determined by the Coast Guard capacity placard.

Q: Do I need my own boat?

A: Yes. Water access to the hunting area is limited, so all hunting parties must have a boat and a float blind, along with a float blind license.

Q: What licenses and documentation do I need?

A: Each hunter must possess a federal migratory waterfowl stamp, a Virginia Waterfowl Conservation stamp, a current hunting license (or be license-exempt), and a valid HIP registration. HIP registration is available at www.dwr.virginia.gov.

Q: Should I scout the area before my hunt day?

A: Yes, strongly recommended. Each hunting party should visit the area before the season to locate boat access points, blind stakes, and become generally familiar with the marsh. You must be able to locate your blind stake before shooting time.

Q: What are the hunting hours?

A: Hunting hours run from half an hour before sunrise until 1:00 p.m. Hunters must retrieve decoys and be away from blind stakes by 2:00 p.m.

Hunt #102 — Princess Anne WMA Impoundment Waterfowl Hunt

Q: What does Hunt #102 cover?

A: Half-day waterfowl hunting on the managed impoundments at Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach, held each Saturday during the general duck season.

Q: How does selection work for Hunt #102?

A: Four hunters are randomly selected for each hunt day. Selected hunters may bring three guests. There is no day-of-numbered draw or blind-stake selection — selected hunters may hunt at a location of their choice within their assigned impoundment tract (Whitehurst or Beasley).

Q: Is there a standby drawing for Hunt #102?

A: No. Standby drawings are discontinued due to staff vacancies in the work unit and should be treated as discontinued until further notice. An electronic system is being developed to replace and improve on the traditional in-person standby drawing.

Q: Are there any other changes to how the impoundments are managed this season?

A: Yes. Also as a result of land manager vacancies, the agency is unable to manage the impoundments this season as it typically would.

Q: What do I need to bring or present to hunt?

A: Your draw notification letter. This must be presented to conservation police officers if you are checked in the field.

Q: What are the hunting hours?

A: You may hunt until 1:00 p.m. and must have all decoys up and be away from the impoundments by 2:00 p.m. No exceptions.

Q: How many guests can I bring?

A: Up to three (3) guests. Guests must hunt with the hunt winner.

Q: Is there a shell limit?

A: Yes. Each hunter is limited to 25 shells.

Q: Are decoys or blinds provided?

A: No. Decoys and blinds are not provided. Temporary blinds are allowed, and chest waders are recommended — be aware of deep ditches adjacent to the dikes.

Q: Are dogs allowed?

A: Yes, and dogs are recommended.

Q: Can I scout the area before my hunt date?

A: Pre-hunt scouting is permitted only on Sundays or from the designated parking areas — not by entering the impoundments on other days.

Q: Where do I park?

A: Parking is permitted only at the designated lots on Munden Road. Please limit the number of vehicles in your party so there is room for other hunters to park.

Q: Are there area restrictions I need to know about?

A: Yes. You must hunt inside your assigned impoundment system only — you may not hunt adjacent marshes or ponds — and you may not hunt within 150 yards of a road or dwelling. These safety zones are marked with white PVC posts with red reflective tape.

Q: Do I need to check out after my hunt?

A: There is no formal check-out. All spent shells and any other litter must be removed from the WMA before you leave.

Hunt #107 — Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts

Q: What does Hunt #107 cover?

A: Half-day waterfowl hunting on the waters of Back Bay in Virginia Beach, held on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, and opening day during the last two segments of the general duck season.

Q: How many blind stakes are available?

A: There are 43 floating blind stakes available across the Beasley, Whitehurst, Trojan, Barbour Hill, Cedar Island, False Cape, and Pocahontas areas of the WMA.

Q: How are hunt days scheduled?

A: Hunt #107 runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and opening day during the last two segments of the general duck season only.

Hunt #112 —Princess Anne WMA Early Season Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts

Q: What does Hunt #112 cover?

A: September Canada goose/teal hunting during the September teal season, and waterfowl hunting during the October waterfowl season, on the waters of Back Bay in Virginia Beach, held on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, and opening day.

Q: Is the resident Canada goose season part of the quota hunt?

A: No. The resident Canada goose season prior to teal season is open on a first-come, first-served basis and is not part of the quota hunt. Quota hunting under Hunt #112 begins with the opening of teal season.

Q: How many blind stakes are available?

A: There are 43 floating blind stakes available, the same set used for Hunt #107.

Contact

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