

## 2023 Waterfowl Draw Information Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area

This page includes information and instructions for those interested or selected to participate in a 2023 Indiana Waterfowl Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserve hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

### Applying:

The application period for the 2023 Waterfowl Draw Hunt is Aug. 20 – Sept. 24, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid Indiana hunting license, and an Indiana waterfowl privilege stamp before applying. Visit our page on [waterfowl & migratory game birds](#) to learn more about waterfowl hunting requirements. Each hunter is eligible to select five dates from any participating property when applying. Dates can be seen when applying. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt waterfowl.

A HIP number is also required to hunt waterfowl. Hunters must register at [indianaoutdoor.IN.gov](http://indianaoutdoor.IN.gov) or by calling 866-671-4499. There is no cost to register.

### Restrictions:

#### Allowed Equipment:

- Non-toxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting nationwide.
- The shotgun used must not be capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- It is illegal to use a shotgun larger than 10-gauge.
- All waterfowl hunters are limited to a maximum of 25 shells per hunter.

#### Bag Limit:

- The daily bag limit for teal is six.
- The daily bag limit for coots is 15.
- The daily bag limit for mergansers is five, which may include no more than two hooded mergansers.
- The daily bag limit for ducks is six, which may include no more than four mallards (two of which may be hens), three wood ducks, two canvasbacks, one pintail, two redheads, two black ducks, one mottled duck, and one or two scaup. The daily bag limit may include one scaup before Nov. 25 in CT. The daily bag limit in the CT may include two scaup after Nov. 25.
- The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

**Hunting Hours:**

- 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1:00pm.

**Hunt Information:**

To claim your reservation, you must check in at the property office before 4:30 a.m. CT on the day of your hunt. If you do not claim your reservation by the time indicated above, your spot will be given to another hunter or forfeited entirely. You may bring two hunting partners with you during your hunt.

On reserve hunting dates, 5 hunters are selected and allowed their choice of preferred hunting unit in the order indicated by their draw number. The hunter in reserve position #1 will choose first and reserve position #5 will be the last to pick before the remaining units are open for public drawing. Hunters must stop hunting at 1:00pm

You must carry with you and return the one-day access permit received upon drawing a unit. Each permit has an area to indicate your harvest records and additional information. Please fill your permits to the best of your ability. Permits can be returned at the property office or at any self-service kiosk around the property.

Hunting hours end at 1:00PM CT.

**Area Information:**

Hovey Lake FWA is a unique natural area nestled in the Ohio River and Wabash River floodplains in extreme southwest Indiana. Hovey Lake FWA covers approximately 7,404 acres and features a 1,400-acre oxbow lake, other smaller sloughs and marshes, and extensive bottomland hardwood forests. Hovey Lake FWA provides and maintains quality outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and recreational paddling.

Waterfowl habitat on the property includes oxbow lakes, smaller sloughs, marshes, flooded crops, dry fields and at times Ohio River flood waters. We strongly suggest scouting the area and planning your access method prior to the hunt. Hunting units range from very shallow water to deep. Wading access is available on most manmade property marshes and some areas of Hovey Lake. Most areas on Hovey Lake are only accessible by boat. A small number of hunting units have boats and blinds provided. It is recommended to bring your own blind and/or boat. If you have questions about access call or visit the property office.

Number of available hunting spots vary by day. 20-22 spots with huntable water are available each day and nine dry field spots are available as well.

**Contact:**

If you have further questions, please contact the Hovey Lake FWA property office at 812-838-2927 or [HoveyLakeFWA@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:HoveyLakeFWA@dnr.IN.gov)

