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## 2023 Wild Turkey Draw Information Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area

This page includes information and instructions for those interested in or selected to participate in a 2023 Indiana Wild Turkey Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserved 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 Wild Turkey Draw Hunt is Feb. 19, 2023, to March 19, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat stamp for spring turkey hunting prior to applying. Each hunter is eligible to select one hunt date from any participating property when applying. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt spring turkey.

**Restrictions:** Non-Toxic shot is not required at Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area.

### Allowed Equipment:

- A 410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28- gauge shotgun loaded with pellets size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7 ½. Shot sizes smaller than size 7 ½ must be made of Tungsten Super Shot or equivalent pellet density only such as Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, and Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- A bow and arrow or crossbow.

### Bag Limit:

- The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season.

### Hunting Hours:

- The hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise until noon CT or 1 p.m. ET.

### Tagging Requirements:

- Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter's full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field.

### **Reporting Requirements:**

- Hunters are required to register their harvested turkey within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:
  - Self-reporting online through the DNR's CheckIN Game system ([CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov](https://CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov)).
  - Calling 800-419-1326 (a \$3 fee applies).
  - Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the turkey is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the turkey until processing begins. For a printable version of a temporary transportation tag, visit [hunting.IN.gov](https://hunting.IN.gov).

### **Hunt Information:**

To claim your reservation, you must check in at the property office before 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on each day of your hunt. If you do not claim your reservation by the times indicated above, your spot will be given to another hunter or forfeited entirely.

You may NOT bring a hunting partner with you during your hunt; however, you may bring a non-hunting observer or assistant. All non-hunting partners who assist in calling in turkeys must be properly licensed. Hunters must stop hunting by noon CT and be out of the field by 1 p.m. CT.

### **Area Information:**

Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area provides quality outdoor recreational opportunities and a wide array of habitat types for countless plant and animal species. At the center of the property is the J.C. Murphey Lake and wetland complex. The lake comprises more than 1,200 acres and draws in thousands of waterfowl each year. [It is currently undergoing renovation.](#) Each year, hunters successfully harvest a number of species including deer, turkey, waterfowl, and quail.

The entire turkey season at Willow Slough is draw only. When applying to the 2023 Wild Turkey Willow Slough FWA hunt, you may choose from seven hunt periods:

- Wednesday – Friday: April 26, 2023 – April 28, 2023
- Saturday – Sunday: April 29, 2023 – April 30, 2023
- Monday – Wednesday: May 1, 2023 – May 3, 2023
- Thursday – Saturday: May 4, 2023 – May 6, 2023
- Sunday – Tuesday: May 7, 2023 – May 9, 2023
- Wednesday – Friday: May 10, 2023 – May 12, 2023
- Saturday – Sunday: May 13, 2023 – May 14, 2023

The property has 14 hunting units available and will draw 18 hunters to hunt for each period. If you are successful in drawing for a hunt at Willow Slough FWA, you must check in at the property office (located at 1803 S. 700 W. Morocco, IN, 47963) before 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on the first day of your hunt to pick your location. If you do not claim your reservation by the times indicated above, your spot will be given to

another hunter or forfeited entirely. You must claim your reservation at the office each day, then you will sign in and take your one-day hunt permit card. If you are not successful in drawing to hunt at Willow Slough FWA, you may still attend the standby drawing held daily at 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) for any unclaimed spots.

**Contact:**

If you have further questions, please contact the Willow Slough property office at 219-285-2704.

