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Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area: General Information and Regulations

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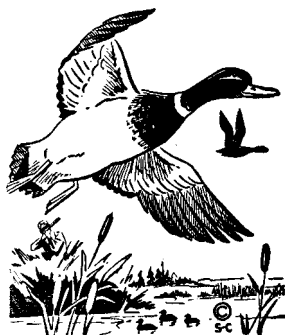
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Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area

General
Information



and

Regulations



Nebr. Game, Forestation and Parks Commission

General Information

Description

The Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area was acquired by the Game Commission in 1948 with funds apportioned to the state through the federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition.

The Area serves primarily as a waterfowl refuge, and public hunting area. A game farm, which holds pheasant stock through the winter months is also located on the property.

This state special use area encompasses 2,313 acres of game-rich land with approximately 40 percent of the acreage consisting of lake or lagoon. The remainder is in diversified cropland. The topography is typical of the rainwater-basin country — miles of relatively flat tableland draining finally into a lagoon.

Location

The Area is located in the southeast corner of Phelps County, approximately 2½ miles west of Wilcox. It is accessible by gravel road from Holdrege and Axtell, which are located on U. S. Hiway #6.

The post office address is: Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area, Wilcox, Nebraska. To telephone the Area call Wilcox, Granite 8-2986.

General

Approximately 1,600 acres are open to public hunting; the balance has been set aside as a game refuge. Boundaries of these respective areas are plainly marked with metal signs.

The refuge serves two primary functions — as a resting place for waterfowl, and as a concentration point for birds so that hunters may enjoy fringe shooting on open areas. An average of 50,000 ducks visit the area each fall. Occasionally geese will stop off.

Pheasants, too, are plentiful, for Sac.-Wilcox is in the heart of prime pheasant country. Intensive habitat development such as planting of trees, shrubs, and grass have provided a wealth of cover to support even greater numbers. Rabbits are plentiful in thickets and weed patches. Jacksnipe are commonly found along the lake's edge

In 1958-59 considerable development work was done to improve waterfowl production and harvest. A major problem in the past had been instability of water in the lagoon area due to excessive evaporation and lack of runoff. A network of dikes was built which divided the lagoon into six separate pools to compensate for this. Tubes and valve structures were laid in the dikes so that water could pass from one pool to the other. Water can be stored in one and let out into another at a later date. In this way evaporation is minimized. Six irrigation wells were drilled at intervals around the rim of the lagoon. These wells are used to pump water into the various pools when needed.

Approximately 350 acres of land was bench-leveled for irrigation to make full use of the wells. Grain crops raised help defray the Area's operational and maintenance expenses, and provide feeding grounds for waterfowl and upland game. These "benched" areas are also good hunting spots.

Facilities

A system of graveled roads gives good hunter access throughout the year. The main access road has four graveled parking lots situated along it at regular intervals. Each lot can accommodate ten to fifteen cars.

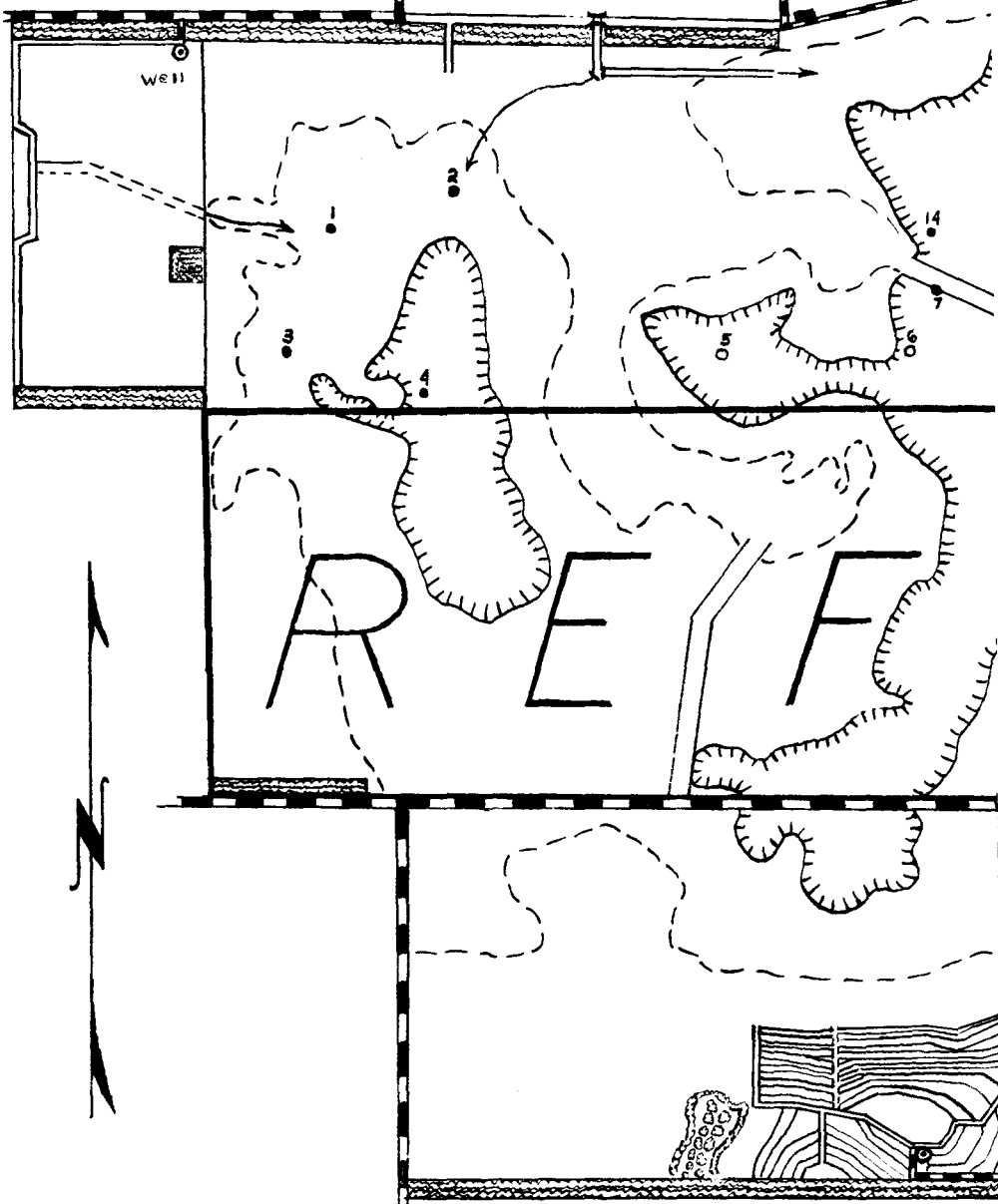
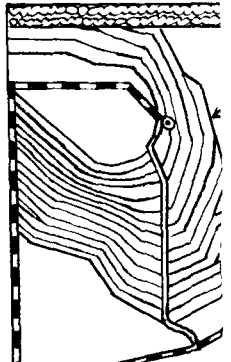
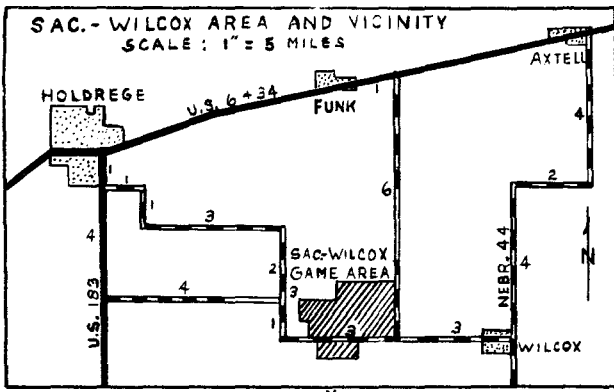
Thirteen duck blinds are available to the public free of charge. Hunters can rent decoys from the Commission or bring their own. Rental charge is \$1.00 per dozen per day.

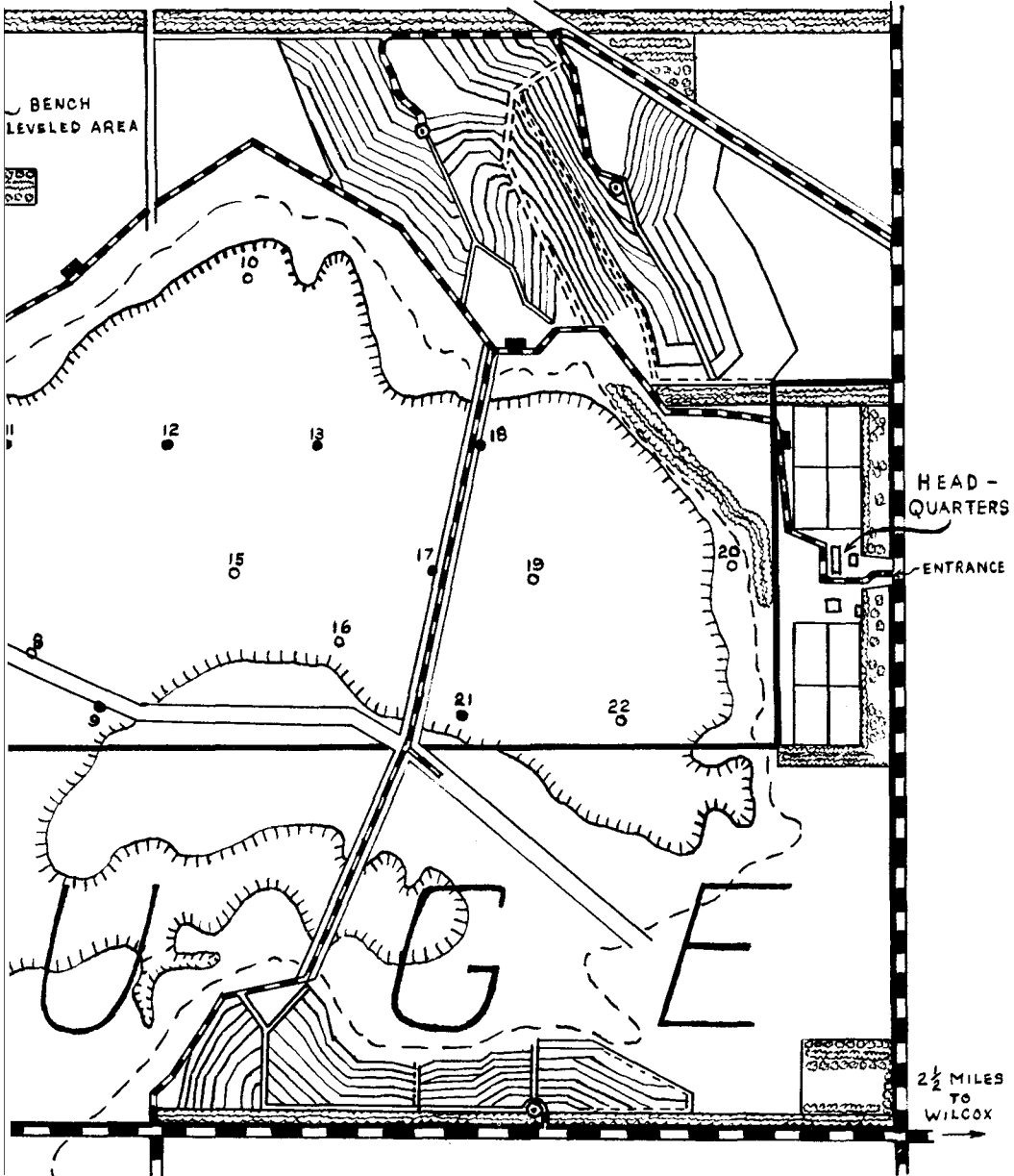
The headquarters area is on the east edge of the property, 2½ miles west, ¾ mile north, of Wilcox. The large metal administration building houses a waiting room for hunters, which is outfitted with benches, drinking fountain, pop cooler, and modern rest rooms. Commission personnel are available to provide information and instruction.

Procedure

Reservations for hunting are not required. Blinds are allocated on a first-come — first-serve basis, and pheasant hunters are allowed to roam freely on the open portion of the Area.

All hunting is subject to the provisions of the appropriate state or federal laws and regulations. Special rules and regulations for the Area are in effect, but these are additional to, rather than in place of the aforementioned state and federal regulations.





NEBRASKA GAME COMMISSION
 SACRAMENTO-WILCOX GAME MGT. AREA
 SCALE: 1"=1320'
 DATE: 3-13-61

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------|--|
| GRAVEL ROADS | | PARKING LOTS | |
| DIRT ROADS | | WATERLINE | |
| REFUGE BOUNDARY | | NORMAL | |
| WATERWAYS | | HIGH | |
| BLINDS | | DIKES | |
| EXISTING | | WELLS | |
| PROPOSED | | | |
| TREES | | | |

Rules and Regulations

I. Game Refuge

1. It shall be unlawful to hunt, take, molest, or disturb any birds or animals, or to carry firearms of any kind within the posted boundaries of the state game refuge located on the Area.
2. It shall be unlawful, during the waterfowl hunting season, to trespass within the posted boundaries of said refuge for any purpose, other than to retrieve game birds lawfully killed.

II. Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping

1. Hunting is permitted on that portion of the property which is designated "State Public Hunting Area", with the exception of specific fields otherwise posted.
2. Not more than four (4) persons, including non-hunters, may occupy one blind or pit at one time.
3. Construction or erection of hunting blinds other than those provided by the Game Commission is prohibited.
4. Waterfowl hunting shall be limited to existing blinds, and to such "jump" and "pass" shooting as can be obtained when stationed at least two hundred (200) yards from any other party of hunters.
5. Fishing is permitted, except within the posted boundaries of the refuge.
6. All hunting and fishing is subject to the provisions of the appropriate state or federal laws and regulations.

III. Camping

Camping is permitted only at designated sites. Camping in unauthorized areas is prohibited.

IV. Fires

1. Open fires are permitted in fireplaces, stoves, ovens, or fire rings where these facilities are provided. All other fires are prohibited.
2. Unattended fires of any kind are prohibited. All fires must be extinguished before leaving the Area.
3. Under certain conditions fires may be prohibited entirely by the posting of special signs.
4. Discarding of lighted material of any type, including cigars, cigarettes, etc. is prohibited.

V. Animals

1. Dogs are permitted on the Area but must be accompanied by the handler and under his control at all times.
2. It shall be unlawful to have dogs within the posted limits of the Game Refuge.

3. All other domestic animals are prohibited from ranging on the Area at all times.

VI. Property

1. The removal, defacement, damage, or alteration of any public property in or on the Area is prohibited.
2. Entering, climbing upon, or tampering with state equipment is strictly prohibited.
 - A. Pump houses and irrigation installations are "off limits" to all except authorized personnel.
3. Trees, shrubs, and other plants growing on the Area shall not be cut, picked, defaced, injured, or carried away at any time.

VII. Alcoholic Beverages

1. The consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Area is prohibited
2. The presence of intoxicated persons on the Area is prohibited.

VIII. Litter

The dumping of trash, litter, garbage, or deleterious materials anywhere in or on the Area, except in containers provided or in designated areas is prohibited.

IX. Motor Vehicles

1. The operation of a motor vehicle on the Area in a reckless manner or in any manner so as to endanger life or property is prohibited.
2. The operation of a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of 35 miles per hour on the Area is prohibited.
3. The operation of motor vehicles is limited to roads provided. Driving through fields, meadows, waterways, etc. is not allowed.

X. General

1. Swimming, boating, waterskiing and such other activities which are not provided for on the Area and which are judged by the Game Commission to be hazardous, are not allowed.
2. It is prohibited for any person to disturb the public peace and order; to engage in disorderly conduct; or to engage in any act prejudicial to the reasonable enjoyment or use of the Area by others.

Note: Nothing in the foregoing regulations shall be construed as preventing the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, or its duly appointed agents from carrying out their duties in the development and administration of the Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area.