

2013 DUCK BLIND POLICY

Smithville Lake

The drawing will begin at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, 2013 at the Jerry Litton Visitor Center. There will be 60 duck blind permits issued. The permit will allow permit holders to place a blind on the lake from September 21, 2013 – December 30, 2013. We request the cooperation of all sportsmen to insure a safe and successful waterfowl season.

1. A permit is required for all blinds except portable or boat blinds, which must be removed from the project each day after hunting. A minimum age limit of 16 years has been set for drawing participants. To be eligible for the drawing, participants must bring a valid state drivers license, a 2013 Federal Duck Stamp, and a 2013 Migratory Bird Permit to the drawing.

2. Stationary blinds or shoreline blinds may be constructed on wildlife management lands only, except permanent blinds are prohibited on the 3 wetland areas at Public Access 11, 22, and 31. Permanent blinds may not be constructed within 200 yards of these wetlands. There are no specific material requirements for stationary blind. However, it is highly recommended that native plant materials (naturally downed limbs, grass, cattails, annual weeds, etc.) be used, since the lake is subject to rapid fluctuation, which could result in blinds being inundated and/or destroyed. Do not cut live trees or standing dead trees of any size.

3. There are no specific material requirements for floating blinds except that no live or dead trees of any size may be cut for construction materials and barrels or other materials not designed for marine use are strictly prohibited for use as flotation devices.

4. Stationary and floating blinds may not be constructed or placed on project lands until after the drawing on September 21, 2013. Blinds must be completely removed from the project by December 30, 2013. Also, the identification plate (metal numbered tag) must be returned to the Jerry Litton Visitor Center by December 30, 2013. Individuals who do not remove their duck blind or return their metal permit tag will be issued a citation for failure to comply with a valid permit and will not be allowed to apply for duck blind permits in the future.

5. The metal identification tag and permit must be present, in hand, when the blind is placed on the lake/shoreline. The metal identification tag must be affixed to the front of the blinds to be viewed from water upon inspection. Blinds locations may not be saved for future use. Blind locations may not be reserved by placing the metal numbered tag, written notes, posts, etc. at a desired spot. The blind must be unquestionably under construction or in its finished state, and have permit in hand during placement to reserve a blind site. A minimum distance of 200 yards is required between all blinds (floating, stationary, boat, portable, etc.). Please do not infringe on other sportsmen. In addition, all blinds must be placed at least 100 yards from the north shore in the area east of the power lines that are east of the Camp Branch Bridge (see hunting map) where waterfowl hunting is permitted on the lake adjacent to park areas (Zone F). The remainder of lake adjacent to park areas is closed to hunting.

6. Steel shot is required on Smithville Lake. The party who constructs a blind shall have priority use of it. However, if the blind is unoccupied at the beginning of legal shooting hours, it shall be available for use by all hunters on a first come basis. Common courtesy must be the governing factor for this guideline. To minimize any problems concerning priority use of blinds, please attach your name and address to the blind, which you construct.

7. Vehicles are not permitted off the authorized gravel or paved roadways at any time. Off-road use is strictly prohibited for blind construction and/or placement, blind removal, or other hunting purposes.

NOTE: Noncompliance with the above duck blind policy subjects violator to permit revocation and/or a citation.