

Shiawassee River SGA Manager's Update

2016 Season - Week ending 12/04



Weather

Temperatures this past week became more average for December highs in the mid 40's and lows in the mid low 30's. We had some snow squalls that prompted hunters to hunt more but harvest was still very slow.

Waterfowl Abundance

duck numbers continue to increase every week, last week's refuge count was at 10,175 ducks and 1500 geese (a slight decrease in numbers). There was no refuge count done this week and all refuge counts will be suspended here due to the fact that we now have trappers trapping in all of the refuge units.

Hunting Conditions

All of the crops on the area did very well this year. We planted Japanese Millet and buckwheat for small grains and all the corn is well over 6 feet tall. Some new things on the area this year are as follows:

- North Prior field was taken out of production and converted to a small grains field similar to South Prior.
- The field entrances at the Prior Rd. fields have all been redone making it easier for hunters to launch their boats.
- The federal marsh zones 23-28 will only have two hunting zones this year due to a two year draw down plan. The two zones available for hunting are zones 26 and 27.
- The south zones of the 40's field have been reduced to two hunting zones instead of four. The hunting strip is now centered in the south end of the field and consists of zones 45 and 46.

Fields 55-60, 61-66, 39-46, and 6-8 were all flooded for the opener with at least 6 inches of water in the high end of every field.

Hunter Numbers

We had a low of 7 parties in the draw this week and a high number of 60 parties for Sunday afternoon draw.

Waterfowl Harvest

6082 ducks and 911 geese

Upcoming Events

we will be leaving the water in all of the units of the game area until the two day split December 31st and January 1st. If we are not frozen up we will have drawings those last two days of hunting.

Other Comments

The use of spinning wing decoys is still prohibited on the area, and has been expanded to include all motion wing decoys.