

Our Hunting Heritage Carries On

The concrete structures scattered across the marsh are some of the 167 hunting blinds built in the 1950s. Although hunters are not required to use these blinds, they are a testament to the long heritage of waterfowl hunting in the Bottoms.

In the fall, the thousands of ducks and geese passing through the wetland on their way south attract thousands of hunters from all over the United States. About 13,000 acres of the wildlife area are open to hunting. The number of hunters who visit each year and their high success rates make Cheyenne Bottoms one of the premier waterfowl hunting destinations on the Great Plains. The state used revenues from a federal excise tax (established by the Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937) on sporting arms and ammunition to acquire and develop Cheyenne Bottoms. The effort began in 1942, and the area was dedicated as a waterfowl management area in 1957. Today, these same federal tax monies, along with hunting license and duck stamp revenues, still support the state's operation and maintenance of the wildlife area.

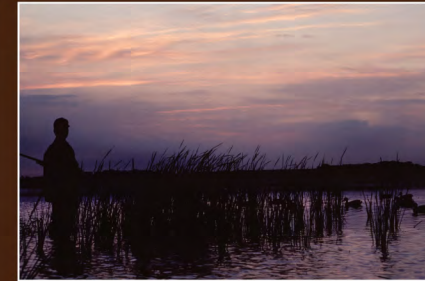


Conservation in action



Concrete blinds at Cheyenne Bottoms

KDWPT Photo



Waterfowl Hunter preparing for the morning Hunt, KDWPT

The Hunt

In a typical year, thousands of hunters make at least one trip to hunt Cheyenne Bottoms. Most are Kansas residents, but 10 percent to 20 percent of the hunters are from out of

state. Hunting is a national heritage, and many families have a strong hunting tradition. It is not uncommon for two, or even three generations to share a duck blind, and hunting is not limited to the males of a family. Daughters, moms, and sisters are frequent visitors here, as well.



Market hunting, KDWPT Archives

Motion and Change

Hunting waterfowl at the Bottoms is nothing new. Before modern regulated sport hunting, hunters were always attracted here by the astounding numbers of waterfowl. Competing tribes of Native Americans even fought battles for the right to hunt here. Later, market hunters sent entire train loads of ducks and geese to Chicago and other urban areas to supply the demand for both food and feathers. Today hunting is carefully managed and the harvest is limited to sustainable levels. So, plenty of ducks and geese are here to be had for those who enjoy waterfowl hunting and watching.

