



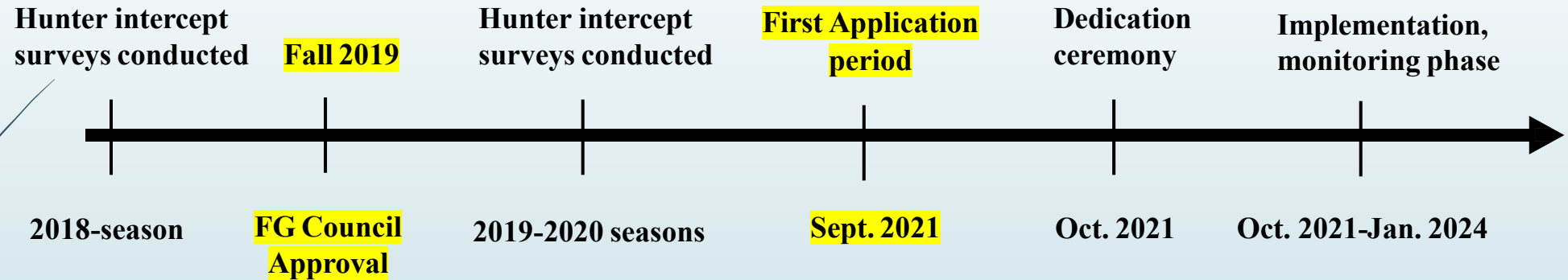
# Tuckahoe WMA Managed Waterfowl Hunt Summary

**Joe Leskie**

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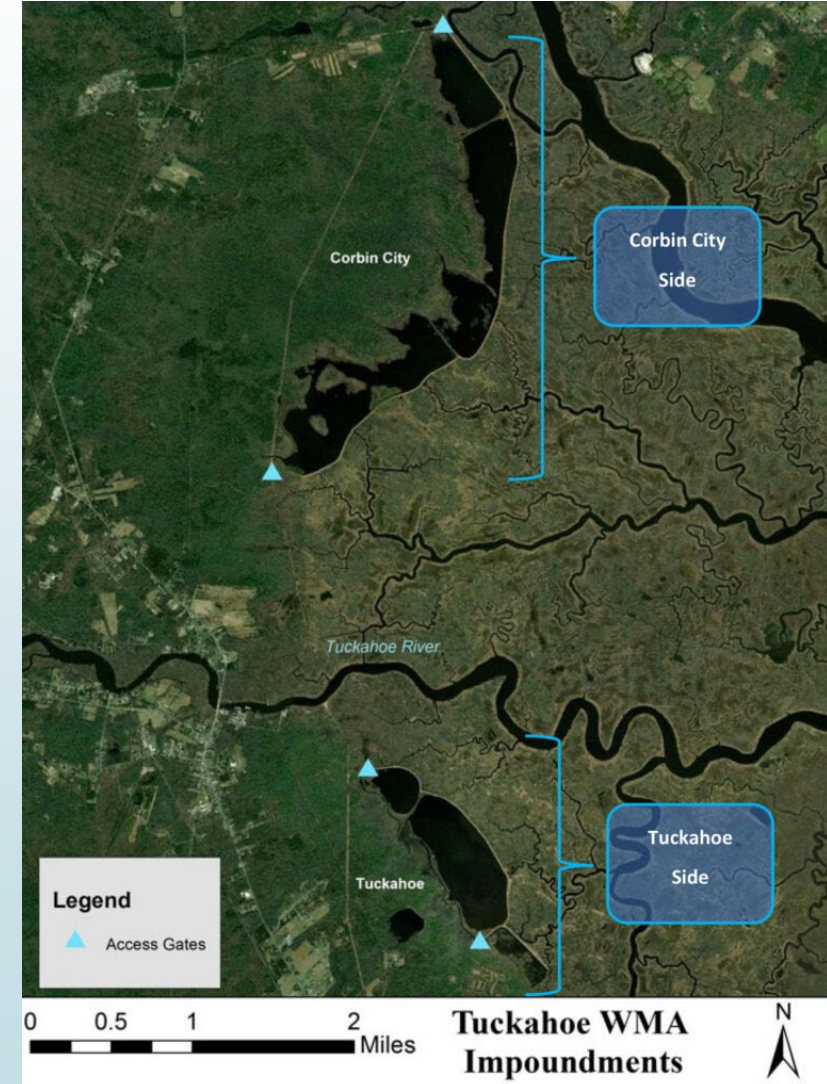


# Tuckahoe Managed Hunt Timeline



# Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area

- Six coastal impoundments totaling 941 acres constructed during the 1940s.
- Second largest WMA – 18,660 acres.
- Primarily consists of tidal marshes, woodlands, fields, and impoundments.
- Corbin City – Atlantic County
- Tuckahoe – Cape May County





# TUCKAHOE WMA

# WATERFOWL DRAW MAP





# Four Major Program Objectives

- **Improve the overall quality of waterfowl habitat and hunting at the Tuckahoe WMA impoundments.**  
(Hunt only Mon. Wed. & Sat. until 12:00 noon)
- **Provide opportunities for *new or less experienced waterfowl hunters*. (RECRUIT)**
- **Provide a new and improved experience for *current waterfowl hunters*. (RETAIN)**
- **Provide an opportunity that alleviates access and overcrowding that negatively impact waterfowl hunters' experiences, ultimately leading to *bringing waterfowl hunters back*. (REACTIVATE)**





# Staff Stepped Up!



## Special Thanks...

- Courtney Venuti
- Sam Forlenza
- Tiffany Woolley



# 2022-2023 Application Results

- Pre-season lottery application (September 1–25)
- Application Online choosing 10 dates
- 468 (430) applications received for 180 hunt dates
- A total of 264 (237) unique hunters recorded last year
- 81% applicants never hunted Tuckahoe

## Avidity

- 41% 0-3 years waterfowl hunting
- 23% 4-9 years waterfowl hunting
- 36% 10+ years waterfowl hunting

## R3 Avidity/Churn

- 63% I am currently active waterfowl hunters
- 25% I am a new/inexperienced waterfowl hunter
- 12% I used to hunt/some years I hunt some I do not



# 2nd Year Survey Summary



## 2022-23

**311 Surveys collected**

**Mean age: 39 years old**

**88% residents, 12% nonresidents**

**48% travel > 1 hour to Tuckahoe**

### Hunter Participation:

**27% hunt 0-5 days,**

**21% hunt 6-10 days,**

**24% hunt 11-20 days**

**27% hunt over 20 days**

**Averaged 3.3 hunters per group**

## 2021-22

**183 Surveys collected**

**Mean age: 40 years old**

**90% residents, 10% nonresidents**

**54% travel > 1 hour to Tuckahoe**

### Hunter Participation:

**20% hunt 0-5 days,**

**22% hunt 6-10 days,**

**25% hunt 11-20 days**

**32% hunt over 20 days**

**Averaged 3.0 hunters per group**



# Year Two Post Hunt-How'd We Do?

## 2022-23

### Support of a hunt plan

- **90%** support program continuance
- **7%** no opinion/undecided, **3%** suspend

### Satisfaction

- Ducks seen: **61%**
- Ducks harvested: **37%**
- Hunters encountered: **74%**
- **Overall Satisfaction: 67%**

### Lottery & Logistics Rank (1–poor, 5–excellent)

- Lottery application process: **4.6**
- Lottery notification process: **4.7**
- Blind locations: **4.4**
- Logistics parking & blind access: **4.7**
- Check out & exit survey process: **4.8**

## 2021-22

### Support of a hunt plan

- **87%** support program continuance
- **10%** no opinion/undecided, **2%** suspend

### Satisfaction

- Ducks seen: **76%**
- Ducks harvested: **34%**
- Hunters encountered: **70%**
- **Overall Satisfaction: 54%**

### Lottery & Logistics Rank (1–poor, 5–excellent)

- Lottery application process: **4.2**
- Lottery notification process: **4.3**
- Blind locations: **3.2**
- Logistics parking & blind access: **3.9**
- Check out & exit survey process: **4.5**

# Program Issues: Corbin City

## 1. Gate Maintenance-Suspended

Extremely time-consuming and logistically difficult. Roads are very rough for constant travel safely & timely.

## 2. Survey data:

Little to NO survey data collected-Logistically difficult due to staffing, timing and non-compliance.

## 3. SAFETY is Paramount

(We have no policing capabilities)  
Staff had issues trying to do our jobs.

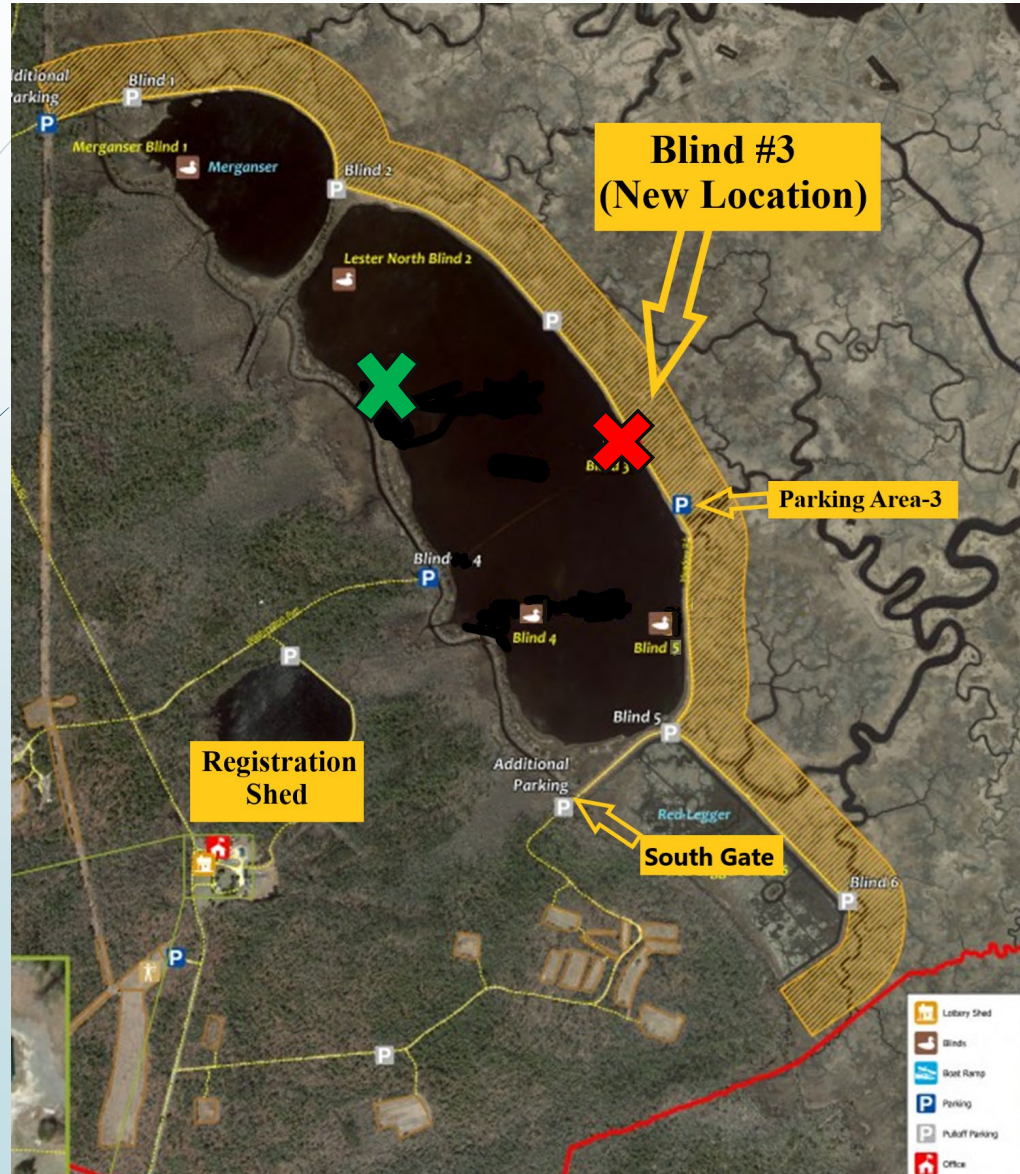
4. Finally, it is not a direct R3 initiative-Focus is and should only be on the Tuckahoe Managed Hunt Program.

***Therefore, the Corbin City section is open to hunting without limitations***





# Program Issues: Blind # 3



We got it back  
and re-anchored



# Program Issues: Roads

**Sink holes on the dike road**



**Potholes on the access roads**





# Program Improvements: Hunting

- **Rubberized Floor Mats for the blinds**
- **Easier access base into the blind**
- **Step supports into blinds**
- **Extension poles to go deeper into the mud to secure the blind**
- **Real-time blind shifting when needed**
- **Grass upkeep and Maintenance**
- **Decoy loaner “sign up” at time of Lottery Award notification**





# Program Improvements: Hunting

**Before**



**After**





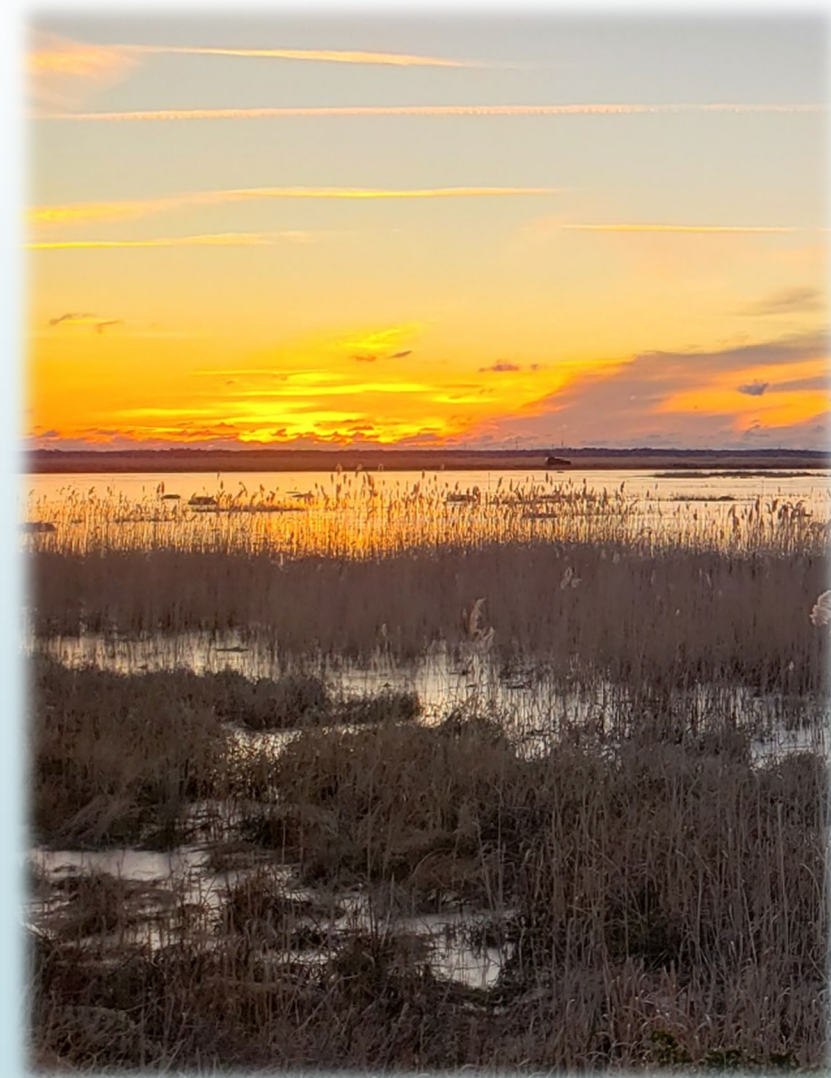
# Program Improvements: Signs & Markers





# Program Improvements: Hunters

- **On-Line Application will continue**
- **Expand survey abilities utilizing QR Code**
- **Phone number will be supplied to hunters**
- **30-minute late window-Need to fill blinds**
- **Offer up Mentored Hunting Opportunities to take advantage of the Program**
- **Offer a 2 Day weekend Hunter Orientation Day prior to the season so program winners can see where they will be hunting.  
Scheduled for: October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00**
- **Updated FAQ Page with suggestions on expectations on equipment and navigating the impoundments**

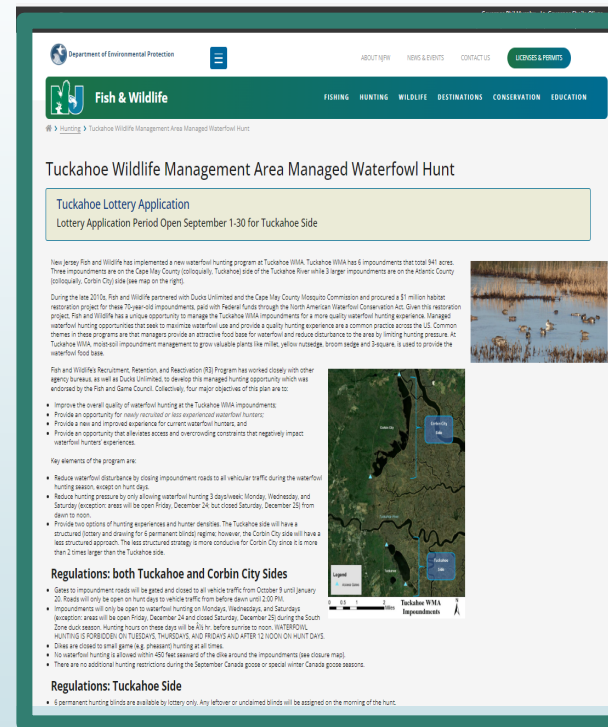




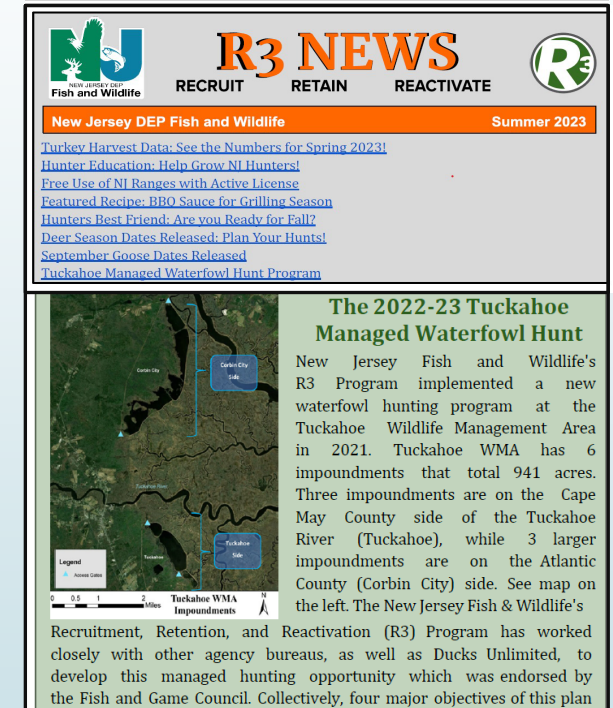
# We Will Continue to Promote the Program



- Information in our 2023-24 Hunting & Trapping Digest



- Information and fillable application on the NJ Fish & Wildlife Website and Social Media



- Information in our Summer version of the 2023 R3 Newsletter



# Thank You!



# QUESTIONS ?