

## **Proposed Permanent Blind Guidelines for New LCCB River Areas at Ortho Pocket and Linger Longer for 2011 Waterfowl Season**

**Stationary blinds and the use of waterfowl decoys on LCCB Ortho Pocket and Linger Longer Areas.** The use of permanent blinds for waterfowl hunting in the submerged portions of Ortho Pocket and Linger Longer areas managed by the Lee County Conservation Board are restricted as follows:

**Registration.** Registration will be limited to one blind per hunting group or party. All hunters that may use the blind must register with the LCCB by completing a registration card. The LCCCB will assign a site with a designation number and that number must be placed on the blind in a visible location. Locations will be determined based on placement at safe distances in relation to existing location sites and an identifying number will be assigned. Blinds will be limited to a maximum of 10 blinds in each area. Blind assignments will be determined by drawing on the last working day of June.

**Construction.** Private blind owners are responsible for the maintenance of their blind. Blinds must have minimum dimensions of four feet by eight feet and not greater than 500 square feet of floor space, not including a boat hide. Blinds must be constructed of biodegradable materials and those materials will be removed at the end of the waterfowl season. Treated lumber, treated plywood, woven wire, chicken wire, cattle panels, tin and sheet metal, vinyl and plastic, and other non-biodegradable materials are not allowed unless removed at the end of the waterfowl season. Blinds that incorporate non-biodegradable materials must have those materials removed within two weeks of the end of the waterfowl season. The use of metal and nylon fasteners including but not limited to nails, screws lag bolts, staples and ties is also allowed. Lee County Conservation Board reserves the right to inspect blinds for structural safety. If the blind is deemed unsafe, the owner must repair it in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in its removal by the County and the owner will lose their right to that and any other blind site.

**Occupation of blinds.** Hunters that have registered for a specific blind site must occupy that site by one half hour before opening shooting time each day to claim the blind site for that day. A maximum of four persons may occupy any one blind at any time. After this time, unoccupied blind sites will be available to any other hunters. No person will claim or attempt to claim a blind, which is legally occupied, and/or no person will harass, in any manner, the occupants of a blind, which has been legally occupied. At no time will any blind be allowed to be locked. Disputes between parties about a blind occupation will be resolved by the LCCB and may result in both parties losing privileges to a blind.

**Hunting with respect.** All hunters will be expected to be respectful of other hunters in these areas. Harassment of other hunters or persons using these areas for their intended purpose will lose the privilege to have a blind on the area and may be barred from hunting on these areas in general. The LCCB will reserve the right to ban any party acting in a reckless/unsafe/illegal manner from hunting in the designated area.

**Tree and brush removal.** No person shall remove brush or trees around any blind, except willows. Willows and annual vegetation from the blind site may be used to cover the blind. Lotuses may be removed to allow better access to a blind site.

**Decoys.** Decoys may be left out for the entire waterfowl season but must be collected and removed from the area within three days of the end of waterfowl season. The Lee County Conservation Board is not responsible for decoys left on the area. Decoys left at a blind overnight are done so at the hunters own risk of loss.

**Violations.** Violation of any of the above guidelines will result in a minimum of a one year loss of blind use and serious violation will result in permanent restriction from usage of blinds on either of these two areas.

**Hold Harmless:** Hunting can be a dangerous activity. All hunters should exercise due care and strictly follow state and federal law and the rules of good sportsmanship. The Lee County Conservation Board has no responsibility over the construction or maintenance of blinds. All persons should understand that they are entering at their own risk and assuming all risks. No representation is made that the placement of a blind is safe, that it is an appropriate distant from other blinds or hunters, or that the river current and or sediment is appropriate in that area. By signing this application, the undersigned is agreeing to hold Lee County, the Lee County Conservation Board, its employees, officers and agents harmless from any and all liability, except for gross negligence. This specifically including holding harmless personal injury, death, damage to property, or theft.

**Blind Removal:** Blinds shall be completely removed within 2 weeks of the end of the waterfowl season. The LCCB reserves the right to order the blind removed at any time if it is deemed in the best interest of the LCCB.