

Hunting is in accordance with State regulations; in addition, Refuge-specific regulations must be followed and are listed in the table below.

Activity	Season Dates	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
Elk	State regulations apply.	See elk hunt map.	<p>Following harvest, elk hunters may use retrieval roads starting at 10:00 am.</p> <p>Elk hunters are allowed one assistant and must ensure that assistant is compliant with all Refuge regulations.</p> <p>Elk hunters may fill up to three WGFD elk licenses on a single Refuge permit.</p> <p>Elk hunters are limited to possessing no more than 7 cartridges per license.</p> <p>Harvest Reports are included with every Refuge permit and must be completed for each hunt period drawn, whether successful or not. Directions for submission are on the Harvest Report.</p> <p>Elk hunters are required to participate in a Chronic Wasting Disease sampling program by depositing the animal's head at a collection box or allowing a biologist to collect samples in the field. Hunters are advised to take personal safety precautions by wearing rubber gloves while field dressing. All ear tags and radio collars from harvested animals must be returned to the Refuge or WGFD, Jackson Regional Office.</p> <p>The Refuge Youth Only Elk Hunt will occur Thursday through Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. For those three days, full-priced youth license holders who have drawn a Refuge permit for that period may take one bull elk. Youth hunters may take two additional cow/calf elk with additional licenses.</p>
Bison	State regulations apply.	See bison hunt map.	<p>Following harvest, bison hunters may use retrieval roads immediately.</p> <p>Bison hunters are allowed multiple assistants and must ensure their entire hunt party is compliant with all Refuge regulations.</p>
Antelope	<p>Unit 6 Archery Aug. 15 – Sept. 9</p> <p>Firearms Sept. 10 – Oct. 31</p> <p>Unit 8 Firearms Oct. 1 – 31</p>	See antelope hunt map.	<p>Following harvest, pronghorn hunters may use retrieval roads immediately.</p> <p>Antelope hunters are allowed one assistant and must ensure that assistant is compliant with all Refuge regulations.</p> <p>Antelope hunters are limited to possessing no more than 7 cartridges per license.</p> <p>Harvest Reports are included with every Refuge permit and must be completed for each hunt period drawn whether successful or not. Directions for submission are on the Harvest Report.</p>
White-tail deer	<p>Unit 6 Archery Sept. 1 – 14</p> <p>Firearms Sept. 15 – Oct. 31</p>	See white-tail deer hunt map.	<p>Following harvest, white-tail deer hunters may use retrieval roads immediately.</p> <p>White-tail deer hunters are allowed one assistant and must ensure that assistant is compliant with all Refuge regulations.</p> <p>White-tail deer hunters are limited to possessing no more than 7 cartridges per license.</p> <p>White-tail deer hunters are required to participate in a Chronic Wasting Disease sampling program by depositing the animal's head at a collection box or allowing a biologist to collect samples in the field. Hunters are advised to take personal safety precautions by wearing rubber gloves while field dressing.</p> <p>Harvest Reports are included with every Refuge permit and must be completed for each hunt period drawn whether successful or not. Directions for submission are on the Harvest Report.</p>

National Elk Refuge (NER)

Hunt Information Line
307 / 201-5437

National Elk Refuge Administrative Office

P.O. Box 510, 675 E. Broadway Avenue
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 733-9212
www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge/

National Elk Refuge Visitor Center

532 North Cache Street
Jackson, WY 83001

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Jackson Office
P.O. Box 67, 420 North Cache Street
Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-2321

Teton Interagency Dispatch

307 / 739-3301

In an emergency, dial 911
For State relay service TTY / Voice: 711

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

Hunting Information

The Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Welcome

The National Elk Refuge was established in 1912 in Jackson, Wyoming as a winter game elk reserve to protect winter habitat for migratory elk. The 24,700-acre Refuge supports a variety of plants and animals with its grasslands, wetlands, and forests.

Hours

Shooting hours are ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of federal, State, and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific Refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Wyoming regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the Refuge headquarters, or from the Refuge website.

Who manages hunting on the National Elk Refuge?

Hunting on the National Elk Refuge (Refuge) is managed through a cooperative effort between the Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD), with the goal of maintaining the WGFD herd size objective. The Refuge posts information related to the Refuge hunting programs on its website: www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge

What must I have while hunting on the Refuge?

- Refuge permit & WGFD hunting license for the species you are hunting. **Note:** The applicant must possess a full price license to apply for the Any Elk and Youth Elk Hunt periods.
- WGFD Conservation Stamp (if required by WGFD)
- WGFD Elk Special Management Permit (if hunting elk)
- Hunter Safety Certificate (if required by WGFD)
- All persons hunting big game during an open firearm season shall wear in a visible manner two (2) or more exterior garments of a fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink color that is visible 360 degrees and that shall include a hat and one of the following: shirt, jacket, coat, vest, or sweater. Fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink camouflage is legal.

How do I get a permit for hunting on the Refuge?

The application process for a Refuge permit for hunting is done online via the WGFD Access Yes! Hunter Management Area Program.

What Refuge-specific laws regulate hunting on the Refuge?

In addition to all Federal and WGFD requirements, the following Refuge specific regulations are enforced. Hunters must be knowledgeable of all regulations prior to hunting as violations may result in forfeiture of the animal, criminal penalties, and permit revocation.

Hunting activities prohibited on the Refuge

- Intentional herding or harassment of wildlife.
- Discharging firearms other than for lawful hunting (i.e. target shooting and sighting in).
- Indiscriminate shooting, shooting multiple times into a running herd, or injuring multiple animals.
- Shooting from parking areas or any road.
- Interfering with or harassing other hunters.
- Using decoys outside the Archery Only Area or using blinds that completely obstruct visible fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink garment.

Transportation activities prohibited on the Refuge

- Driving off designated roads.
- Stopping or unloading hunters along Refuge roads.
- Parking outside of designated hunt parking lots.
- Overnight camping or parking.
- Using bicycles off designated roads.
- ORVs are allowed on public roads but must be registered, insured, and operated by a licensed driver. ORVs and snowmobiles are not allowed on Refuge retrieval roads.
- See map for horse use hunting restrictions. Horses are allowed Refuge-wide for retrieval purposes.

Other activities prohibited on the Refuge

- Collecting natural or cultural resources, including but not limited to antlers, skulls, and artifacts.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
- Possession of non-certified weed-free hay.
- Starting or maintaining any fires.
- Overnight camping or parking.



What are the requirements for animal retrieval?

- If retrieving after dark, hunters should notify Refuge staff by leaving a message on the Refuge Hunt Information Line at 307 / 201-5437.
- Hunters may not leave animal parts, including gut piles and carcasses, within 300 feet of parking areas and public roads.
- No game retrieval is allowed through Grand Teton National Park. This includes retrieval to Gros Ventre parking areas at Milepost 1.1 and 2.3. If retrieving to Highway 89 lot, hunters must bring their vehicle inside the gate to load the animal at the Highway 89 lot.

What should I do before I pursue an injured animal off or onto the Refuge?

Prior to December 1, if an injured animal crosses from the National Forest onto the Refuge, or if retrieval would be more efficient through the Refuge hunters should call the Refuge Hunt Information Line and leave a message describing their situation and plan for recovery.

Following this notice, the hunter may pursue or retrieve the animal as planned, giving consideration to limiting any resource damage. Beginning December 1, Forest Service lands adjacent to the Refuge are closed to all human presence per winter travel restrictions.

If the injured animal crosses into Grand Teton National Park, the hunter must immediately notify Teton Interagency Dispatch at 307 / 739-3301.

What regulations apply to non-hunting assistants?

- Assistants must stay within 50 yards of the permitted hunter, unless retrieving.
- All assistants during an open firearm season shall wear in a visible manner two (2) or more exterior garments of a fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink color that is visible 360 degrees and that shall include a hat and one of the following: shirt, jacket, coat, vest, or sweater. Fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink camouflage is legal.

What guide and retrieval companies are permitted to operate on the National Elk Refuge?

Commercial guiding and retrieval services may be available. The company currently authorized to operate on the Refuge is Double Diamond Tag-n-Drag 307 / 248-1490.

Does the Refuge allow Wyoming hunter assistance and programs for hunters with disabilities?

Hunters enrolled in the WGFD Hunter Mentor Program may receive a Refuge permit.

The Refuge encourages hunters with disabilities to participate in the hunt program and offers reasonable accommodation for the activity. Hunters who have both a WGFD Disabled Hunter Permit and a Refuge hunting permit are eligible to reserve one of two designated hunt sites. Reservations must be made at the Refuge Administrative Offices at 675 E. Broadway in Jackson, WY. The reservation is limited to a 3-day period. The WGFD Disabled Hunter Companion Permit is also valid on the Refuge. Contact WGFD for further information on these programs.

What hunting areas can I hunt, and what are their restrictions?

All hunt areas must be accessed from designated parking lots or direct access routes that correspond to the legal hunting method allowed in that area. All Refuge hunting areas have specific restrictions.

What else do I need to know?

- Prior to the start date of their hunt period, hunters may only access Refuge areas open to the general public.
- Hunters are only allowed in hunt areas when they have a Refuge permit and a valid matching license.
- Refuge roads or parking areas may be closed or inaccessible due to inclement weather or management decisions.
- Use of non-lead ammunition is encouraged.
- During high fire danger, a fire extinguisher and shovel are recommended.
- Grizzly bears frequent the Refuge. Carrying bear spray is recommended.
- Bicycles, including e-bikes, can be used for hunting and retrieval purposes, but must stay on designated public roads and in designated parking lots, or on retrieval roads.

National Elk Refuge Hunt Information Line

Hunters are encouraged to call the Hunt Information Line at 307 / 201-5437 for weekly updates on National Elk Refuge Hunts.

Archery Only Areas

Hunters must carry and are restricted to possessing only a bow or crossbow legal for taking game as defined by the WGFD. Hunters must be at least 200 yards from all residences and the National Fish Hatchery. After November 1, the Archery Hunting Area along Highway 89 may be accessed by either the Fishing or Hatchery gate parking areas.

Limited Range Areas

Hunters must carry and are restricted to possessing only limited range weapons, including handguns, muzzle loading rifles, shotguns with slugs, or archery equipment legal for taking the game species they are hunting as defined by the WGFD. Handguns are further restricted to straight-walled cartridges with a barrel length no longer than 12 inches.

Any Weapon Areas

Hunters may hunt with any legal weapon for taking the game species they are hunting as defined by WGFD.

Refuge Youth Hunter Development Program

The Youth Hunter Development Program on the Refuge provides opportunities for youth mentoring when the adult has drawn a permit and wishes to hunt with a licensed youth that has not drawn a permit. This program does not allow an adult to hunt when the licensed youth hunter draws a permit, but the adult did not. For more information, please call the Refuge Hunt Information Line.

Per Wyoming Statue, any hunter that is 12 or 13 years old shall at all times be accompanied by an adult who possesses and can exhibit a hunter safety certificate, or who currently holds or has been issued a Wyoming big game hunting license within the last five years. If the person who is accompanying the hunter under the age of 14 years old is not the parent or guardian of the hunter, the hunter shall have in their possession a permission slip signed by their parent or guardian allowing them to hunt under supervision. Each accompanying adult shall supervise only one hunter under the age of 14 years.

