

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
Phone: (702) 515-5450
Fax: (702) 515-5460
<http://fws.gov/desertcomplex>

News Release



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Contact: Dan Balduini
(702) 515-5480

Special Rules Apply to Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges in Southern Nevada

LAS VEGAS — With upland game bird, rabbit, and migratory bird-hunting seasons set to begin this month in southern Nevada, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reminding hunters of special rules in force on national wildlife refuges (NWR). Licensed hunters are welcome at the Ash Meadows NWR and Pahrnagat NWR during state-established seasons.

Hunting on the Ash Meadows NWR is allowed in designated areas and is limited to rabbit, quail, goose, duck, coot, moorhen, snipe, and dove. Waterfowl may be hunted at Crystal Reservoir, Peterson Reservoir, Horseshoe Marsh, and Lower Crystal Marsh. Hunting waterfowl over or in any of the springs is prohibited. Row boats or boats with electric motors may be used for waterfowl hunting in Crystal Reservoir and Peterson Reservoir only.

A detailed hunting brochure with a map depicting areas open to hunting is available on the [Ash Meadows NWR website](#) and in kiosks at both entrances to the refuge. The refuge is closed to hunting December 12-17, 2011, for the annual Christmas bird count.

The 23,448-acre Ash Meadows NWR is located in the Amargosa Valley of southern Nye County approximately 30 miles northwest of Pahrump. The west entrance to the wildlife refuge is on State Route 373, and the south entrance is on Bell Vista Road. Signs mark both entrances. The wildlife refuge provides habitat for at least 26 plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Four fish and one plant on the refuge are currently listed as endangered.

Hunting on the Pahrnagat NWR is allowed in the area between Dove Dike and the southern end of Lower Pahrnagat Lake and is limited to dove, quail, and waterfowl. Only boats with electric motors are allowed on Upper Pahrnagat Lake, Middle Pond, and Lower Pahrnagat Lake. The use of boats, rubber rafts, or other flotation devices is prohibited on the North Marsh.

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The Pahrnagat NWR was established on August 16, 1963, to provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl. The wildlife refuge is located approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93 in Lincoln County, Nevada. Situated along the Pacific Flyway, Pahrnagat's 5,380 acres contain lakes and marshes — a rare sight in this part of Nevada.

Other Regulations:

- Hunting licenses are administered by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. For information regarding license requirements and hunting seasons, visit www.ndow.org on the Internet.
- Boats must be thoroughly cleaned and free of invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels.
- Hunters are required to use non-toxic shot when hunting migratory waterfowl, and when hunting on national wildlife refuges or on state wildlife management areas. Additionally, shotguns must be plugged to limit the overall shell capacity to three when hunting on these areas or when hunting all migratory game birds.
- Predator hunting or hunting of species not listed here is not allowed within the wildlife refuges.
- Generally, hunting is allowed any day of the week during state-established seasons. However, hunting of waterfowl, coots and moorhens on the Pahrnagat NWR is permitted only on opening weekend and on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday throughout the season.
- Hunting on the Overton and Key Pitman Wildlife Management Areas is permitted only on certain days as specified in regulations and as outlined in the Nevada Hunt Book.
- Hunters may enter the wildlife refuges one hour before sunrise and may remain until one hour after sunset. However, hunting times are as allowed by state regulations.
- Firearms must be unloaded and dismantled or in a case while traveling through the refuges.
- Dogs may be used to retrieve birds, but must be under voice-command of the hunter at all times. When not hunting, dogs should be leashed.
- All vehicles must be street legal and can only be driven on roads marked for public use. Roads may be closed temporarily during the hunting season due to flooding or restoration activities. It is illegal to drive around closed gates, as doing so is unsafe and can damage wildlife habitat.

Please contact the wildlife refuges for information about any other rules applicable to hunting.

Hunters are urged to pay attention to their surroundings and look for other people in the area. Staff, researchers, and visitors are on the wildlife refuges every day.