



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

National Elk Refuge

2011 Bison Hunting

Information and Regulations

Background

Bison hunt management on the National Elk Refuge is designed to achieve optimum herd size as determined through a cooperative effort between National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department managers.

General Hunting Information

Hunting of bison on the National Elk Refuge is permitted from August 15, 2011 through January 8, 2012. Bison hunting licenses are issued by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Individuals who have not already applied and been selected for the 2011 season are not eligible to hunt bison this year. A Refuge-specific bison hunting permit is required and will be provided with the State license.

Ten hunt periods will be available to hunters:

- *Period 1: August 15 – 21*
- *Period 2: August 27 – September 4*
- *Period 3: September 10 – 23*
- *Period 4: September 24 – October 7*
- *Period 5: October 8 – 21*
- *Period 6: October 22 – November 4*
- *Period 7: November 5 – 18*
- *Period 8: November 19 – December 2*
- *Period 9: December 3 – 16*
- *Period 10: December 17 – January 8*

The following items must be in the hunter's possession while bison hunting on the Refuge:

- Valid State of Wyoming Bison Hunting License
- Refuge bison hunting permit
- Valid Hunter Safety or Instructor Card or certificate for persons born on or after January 1, 1966
- Wyoming Conservation Stamp

Bison hunting is allowed in both the North and South Units of the Refuge, but each unit has distinct weapons restrictions. Hunters are responsible for knowing which weapons can be used in the hunt unit they are accessing.

Hunters are responsible for knowing and observing hunt boundaries (*see map*). Much of the North and South Unit hunt boundaries are identified on the ground by signs and posts. The North Unit hunt area is bounded on the west by the Highway 26/89 fence line and on the north by the south bank of the Gros Ventre River main channel.

Persons may only discharge firearms while actively hunting with a valid Refuge permit in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific Refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

South Unit

- South Unit hunters are restricted to limited range weapons, including muzzle-loading rifles and archery equipment as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, or shotguns with slugs.
- All handguns must meet the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's definition of a legal firearm for the taking of bison, and must use straight-walled cartridges with a barrel length no longer than 12 inches.
- Recommended handgun cartridges include 45-70 government or 460 SW magnum.
- Using rifles that shoot black powder cartridges is prohibited in the South Unit.

North Unit

- North Unit bison hunters may use any legal firearm as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for the taking of wild bison, including rifles, handguns, black powder firearms, and archery equipment.

Special Regulations

All State of Wyoming hunting regulations (available online at <http://gf.state.wy.us/admin/Regs/index.asp>) are in effect and will be enforced. Hunters must review all regulations and maps prior to hunting on the Refuge. Hunting permits may be revoked in the event of improper hunter conduct or violation of regulations, and future Refuge hunting privileges could be denied.

Prohibited activities while bison hunting on the Refuge include:

- Parking along Refuge roads
- Pursuing or following bison by vehicle, including between parking areas
- Overnight camping or parking
- Shooting from parking areas or Refuge roads
- Shooting wildlife other than bison
- Target or practice shooting
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Collection of specimens, including but not limited to antlers, skulls, and artifacts

Fluorescent orange exterior garments as defined by State regulations must be worn by anyone while in a hunt unit.

Any person(s) accompanying a bison hunter must stay with the hunter at all times except during retrieval activities.

Certified weed free livestock feed is required on the Refuge.

Regulations for Archery Hunting on the Refuge

- The special Refuge hunting regulation requiring fluorescent orange exterior garments as defined by State regulations also applies to archery hunters on the Refuge.
- Archery hunters are exempt from the hunter safety certificate requirement.
- Hunters within the archery only hunt area (*see map*) must maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards from residences.

Refuge Access And Travel

The primary access to Refuge bison hunt areas is through the main Refuge entrance at the end of East Broadway Avenue in Jackson.

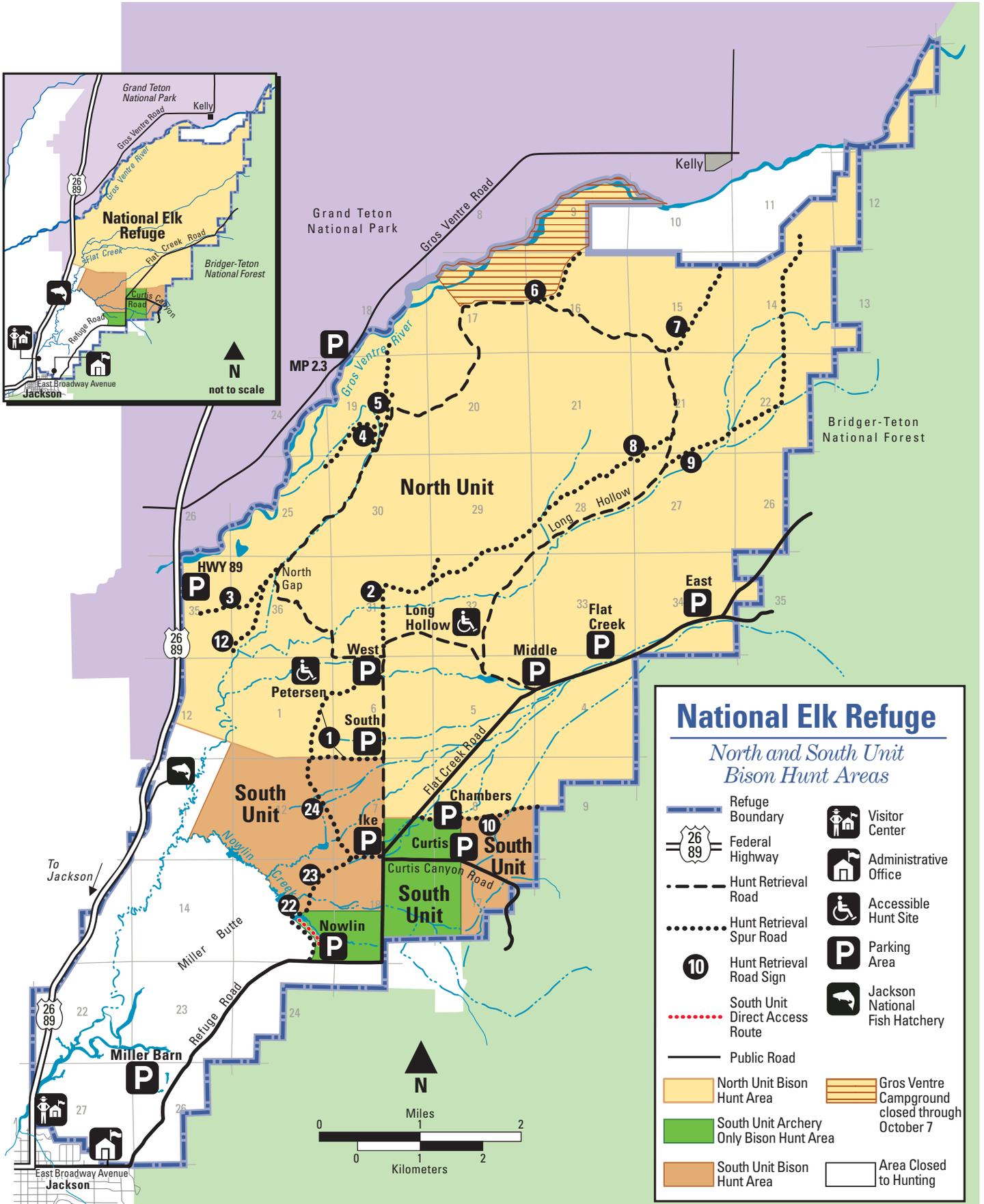
- Vehicles must be parked in one of the designated bison hunt parking areas.
- One bison hunt parking area and access point is available on North Highway 89. An off-Refuge parking and access point is located on the Gros Ventre Road. These additional areas are for use by permitted bison hunters only and cannot be used by hunters pursuing elk. Bison hunters using these additional bison hunt parking areas must clearly display a parking permit (provided with the license) on the dashboard of their vehicle.
- Hunters may not exit vehicles on roads between hunter parking areas.
- Motorized vehicle travel in a hunt area is prohibited, except as noted in the section entitled "Retrieval of Harvested Animals."
- Horses and bicycles are permitted in a hunt area, but bicycles must remain on designated retrieval roads.
- ATVs must be titled and licensed and may only be driven on Refuge roads to one of the hunter parking areas. ATVs are not allowed on Refuge retrieval roads.
- Prior to the start date of the hunt, hunters may only access Refuge areas open to the general public. Hunters are only allowed into hunt areas on the dates listed on their valid permit.
- During periods of very high or extreme fire danger, a water source or fire extinguisher combined with a shovel is recommended for each vehicle.

A temporary safety zone exists in the area around Grand Teton National Park's Gros Ventre Campground. This area is closed to hunting and hunter entry until October 8.

Retrieval Of Harvested Animals

The following information will assist successful hunters in retrieval of bison from a hunt area:

- Hunters are encouraged to make prior arrangements for retrieving and field dressing carcasses in order to expedite the process, thus reducing spoilage of meat. This is critical during periods of warm weather.
- Commercial retrieval services are available for a fee. Current businesses authorized to operate on the Refuge are posted on the bulletin board at the Refuge Administrative Office.
- Vehicles used for retrieval are restricted to designated retrieval roads.
- Bison should be dragged to the nearest retrieval road location (*see map*). Hunters must return by the most direct route to the parking lot. Driving off designated roads is prohibited.
- Bison hunters may retrieve animals any time during the day. Note that elk hunters utilizing the same or adjoining Refuge hunt areas cannot retrieve elk until after 2:00 pm. Consideration should be given to elk hunters utilizing the same or adjoining Refuge hunt areas prior to 2:00 pm.
- Designated retrieval roads will only be open to vehicle traffic to retrieve bison until dark.
- No game retrieval will be permitted through Grand Teton National Park.
- Successful hunters may not transport other hunters into a hunt area. Only the successful hunter and helper(s) may be in the vehicle.
- The Refuge has wheeled carts and sleds available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Miller Barn in order to assist hunters.
- Refuge roads and parking areas may be temporarily closed due to inclement weather or management considerations.



Hunters with Disabilities

The National Elk Refuge encourages hunters with disabilities to participate in the elk hunt program and seeks to afford them reasonable accommodation for the activity.

Hunters who have both a Wyoming Game & Fish Department Disabled Hunter Permit and a National Elk Refuge permit are eligible to reserve a designated accessible hunt site on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations can be made at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center at 532 N. Cache Street in Jackson. A hunter with a Disabled Hunter Permit who does not have a reservation may use a designated accessible hunt site if the site is not occupied or reserved, but must comply with the Hunting Procedures for Persons with Physical Disabilities available at the Visitor Center.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 307 / 733 9212, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Brucellosis Surveillance

Hunters must collect biological samples from harvested animals. Instructions are provided by State wildlife managers. For further information, contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.

Hunters should take personal safety precautions to reduce the risk of infection with brucellosis by wearing rubber / latex gloves while field dressing bison.

Contact Information

Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center
 532 North Cache Street
 Jackson, WY 83001
 307 / 734 9378
 307 / 733 9729

National Elk Refuge Headquarters
 PO Box 510
 675 E. Broadway
 Jackson, WY 83001
 307 / 733 9212

Wyoming Game & Fish Department
 420 North Cache Street
 Jackson, WY 83001
 307 / 733 2321

In an emergency, dial 911.

For State relay service
 TTY / Voice: 711

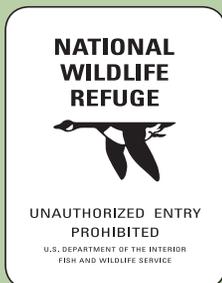
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
 1 800 / 344 WILD

July 2011



Refuge Signs
 Know Their Meaning



*Refuge Boundary Sign
 Entry by Permission Only*



*Area Off Limits to the Public
 Unless Otherwise Specified*



*Area Open to Hunting
 at Specific Times*