



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Elk Refuge

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## **NATIONAL ELK REFUGE REMINDS DOG WALKERS OF LEASH LAW**

As an increasing number of people take advantage of the warmer weather and spring snow melt to walk their dogs on the National Elk Refuge, Manager Steve Kallin reminds area residents and visitors that dogs must be leashed while on public refuge roads. The regulation has been in effect since 2001 in response to an increasing number of uncontrolled dogs and resulting wildlife disturbances.

All traffic, including pedestrians, is currently restricted to the main Refuge Road and turnouts. "We encourage people to recreate on the Refuge Road," Kallin says, "but protection of wildlife and their habitat has to be everyone's priority. It's been a long winter for local animal populations." Limiting human disturbance is key to wildlife survival at the end of a big snow year. Dogs that are off leash and out of control can stress animals and ruin wildlife viewing opportunities for others. Recent sightings on or near the Refuge Road include elk, moose, bighorn sheep, foxes, and migratory birds.

Both vehicles and non-motorized travelers should expect multi-use traffic on the popular route and safely share the roadway.

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