

HUNTING REGULATIONS BITTER LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Public hunting on Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge is allowed in those areas designated as open to hunting by field signs and as indicated on the accompanying map. The following terms and conditions supplement the regulations which govern hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, part 32 and in current Federal Migratory Bird and State Hunting Regulations.

SPECIES ALLOWED TO BE TAKEN:

North Tract: Deer, feral hog, rabbit, duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane, dove, quail and pheasant.
Middle Tract: Duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane and pheasant.

HUNTING DAYS AND HOURS:

North Tract: Hunting is allowed on all days within the State authorized seasons during legal hunting hours.
Middle Tract: Hunting is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays generally (refer to supplemental "Hunting Seasons" leaflet) within the State authorized seasons from legal morning shooting time to 1:00 p.m. (closed during early teal season).

PERMITS AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

A valid State hunting license is required. A Federal Migratory Bird Permit is required for anyone hunting migratory birds. Persons 16 years of age and older must also have a validated Federal Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Permit (Duck Stamp) while hunting waterfowl. All crane hunters must have a free Federal Sandhill Crane Permit (available at all New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Offices).

CHECK STATION PROCEDURE:

All hunters using the Middle Tract must complete survey cards at the check station after each hunt, regardless of success.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION:

State regulations governing the types of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment apply for hunting on the refuge. However, rifles, handguns and archery equipment are not permitted at any time on the refuge except for when hunting deer and hogs. Shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells are permitted while legally hunting ducks, geese, coots, sandhill cranes, doves, quail, pheasants, and rabbits on the above designated areas of the refuge. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot may be used in shotguns when hunting on any part of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Possession of lead shot is illegal on the refuge.

DOGS:

Hunting dogs may be used for hunting waterfowl and upland game. They are required to be under close control of their handlers and not allowed to run loose.

HUNT SITES AND BLINDS:

All hunting sites are considered available to hunters on a first come, first served basis. No pit blinds or permanent blinds are allowed. Portable blinds are allowed but must be removed each day.

VEHICLES:

Vehicle travel on the Middle Tract is restricted to established roads. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only. Do not block roads or intersections.

OTHER:

Disturbing wildlife, such as "rallying" or stirring up birds so that they fly over the hunt areas, is prohibited. Neither hunters nor their dogs may enter closed areas for retrieval of game. All personal property, including decoys and portable blinds, must be directly tended at all times. Access to the North Tract is restricted to walk-in or via horseback, except bicycles may be used on established roads only. Feral hogs may be taken (no limit) from the North Tract only while legally hunting deer and only with the weapon legal for deer on that day. All litter, including spent ammunition casings, must be removed and disposed of properly. Please help us sustain the refuge hunt by removing any litter that you see, even if you did not put it there. Please only attempt to shoot at game from within a reasonable range as "skybusting" (shooting out of range) only promotes instances of wounded and lost game and reduces the quality and success of the hunt for other hunters.