



Welcome

Baca National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado. Established in 2003, the Refuge contains 93,000 acres of wetlands, uplands, and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. A large portion of the Refuge is designated as a wildlife sanctuary and is closed to public access. Baca NWR is part of the San Luis Valley NWR Complex, which includes Alamosa and Monte Vista NWRs.

Report Violations

1 844 / FWS TIPS (397-8477)
1 877 / COLO OGT (265-6648)
FWSOLE_Tips@fws.gov

Contact Information

Baca National Wildlife Refuge
69812 County Road T / PO Box 247
Crestone, CO 81131
719 / 256 5527
www.fws.gov/refuge/Baca/

State Relay Service

TTY / Voice: 711

Refuge Information

1 800 / 344 WILD

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1

800 / 344 WILD
www.fws.gov

May 2025

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.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Baca

National Wildlife Refuge

Elk Hunting Regulations

Elk Hunting

Limited elk hunting is allowed on Baca NWR in designated areas (see map). For your safety and the safety of others, be aware that other visitors, staff, researchers, permittees, cattle, and sheep could be present within the hunt area. Don't shoot towards roads, houses, vehicles, livestock, or people.

Hunters must follow all established State statutes and regulations, in addition to the following refuge-specific regulations:

- All hunters must possess and carry a Colorado issued elk license valid in Game Management Unit 82. Private Land Only (PLO) licenses are not valid.
- Hunters with mobility disabilities should consult with the Refuge Manager for allowed accommodations.
- The Refuge is open for day use only, with access from 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset. Hunters with downed animals can remain on the Refuge beyond one hour after sunset.
- Hunters using firearms can only access and hunt in the general elk hunting area, not the archery elk hunting area.
- Hunters using archery can access and hunt both the archery elk hunting area and general elk hunting area.
- Vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas.
- Hunters may access elk hunting areas by foot, horseback, bicycle, or e-bike from parking areas or public roads. Bicycles and e-bikes are not allowed in wilderness study areas.
- Hunters may be accompanied in the field by one additional person. However, during retrieval of downed animals, hunters may be accompanied by additional individuals (4-5).
- Methods of retrieval include foot, horseback, bicycle, or game cart; however, bicycles and game carts are not allowed in the wilderness study area.

- If an elk is taken in a meadow (hay), the entire carcass must be removed to prevent damage to farm equipment.
- All personal property, including trash and rifle casings, must be removed at the end of each day.

The entire designated elk hunting area or any portion thereof may be closed to hunting for the protection of habitat/wildlife resources, management activities, or safety issues as determined by the Refuge Manager.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of 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.)

Prohibited Activities







- Pre-season scouting (the Refuge is only open during GMU 82 elk seasons).
- Use of handguns.
- Use of dogs.
- Use of motorized vehicles.
- All uses of aircraft (drones) including launching on, landing on, and flying over Refuge lands.
- Camping and overnight parking.
- Fires, except in portable gas stoves in established parking areas.
- Use of flagging, paint, blazes, or reflective marker.
- Use or possession of alcohol while hunting.
- Possession of a controlled substance or any drug paraphernalia.
- Searching for, collecting, taking, and possession of artifacts, fossils, and animal parts, including shed antlers.

Accessibility

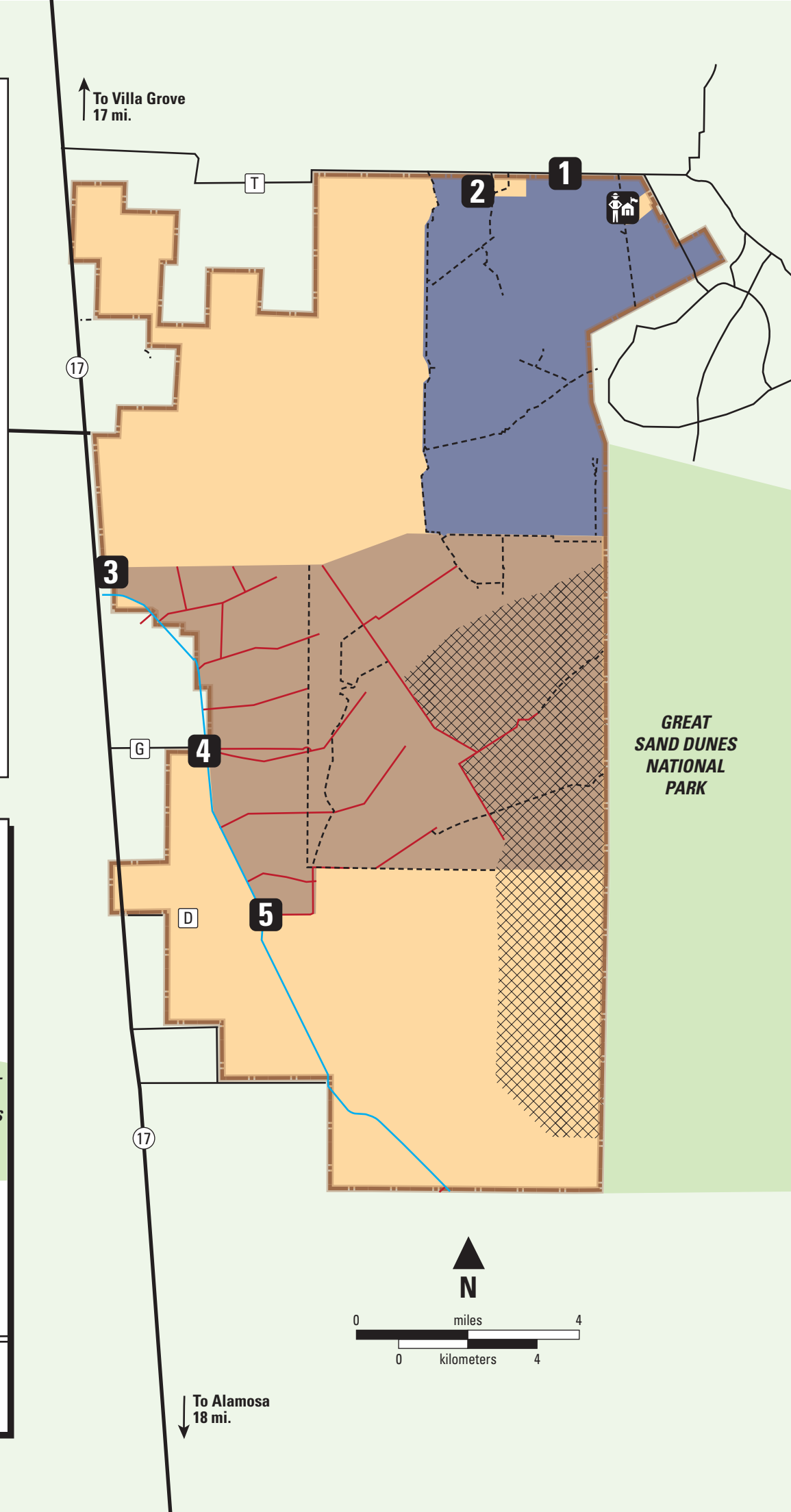
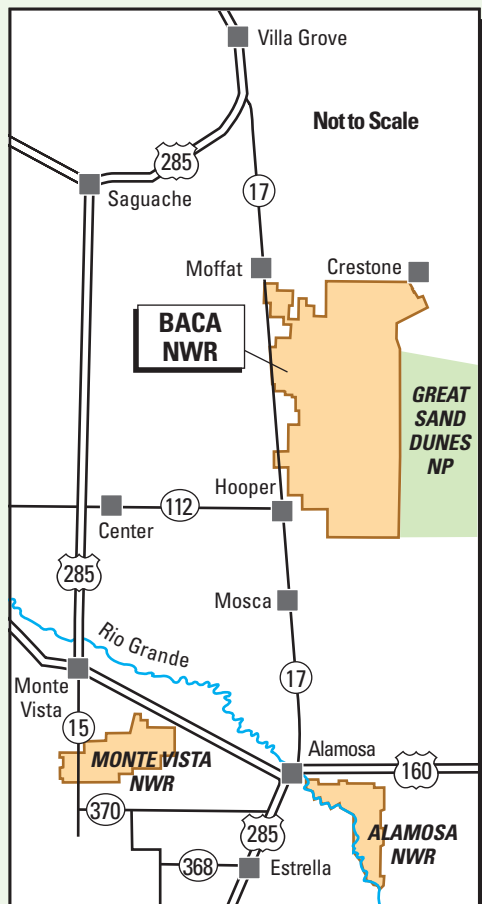
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information, please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, www.doi.gov/accessibility.

Baca

National Wildlife Refuge Elk Hunting Map

-  Refuge boundary
-  U.S. highway
-  State highway
-  County roads
-  Primitive refuge roads (no motorized vehicles)
-  US BOR* road (no motorized vehicles)
-  General elk hunting area
-  Archery elk hunting area
-  Areas closed to all access
-  Wilderness study area
-  US BOR* Closed Basin Canal (no public access)
-  1 Elk hunting parking areas
-  Refuge headquarters

*US Bureau of Reclamation



**GREAT
SAND DUNES
NATIONAL
PARK**