



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rio Puerco Unit Hunt Regulations 2025-2026

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting in the Rio Puerco Unit

590 acres located adjacent to the Rio Puerco in central New Mexico.

Hunting shall be in accordance with all applicable Federal and State Regulations. Please refer to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Hunting Rules and Information and Migratory Game Bird Supplement.

Species/Hunt season

Hunting is allowed in the Rio Puerco Unit, Monday—Sunday from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.

Species	Hunt Season
Mourning; and White-winged Doves	Sep 1–Oct 28, 2025 Dec 1, 2024–Jan 1, 2026
Eurasian Collared Dove	Sep 1–Oct 28, 2025 Dec 1, 2025–Jan 1, 2026
Gambel's Quail	Nov 15, 2025 – Feb. 15, 2026

Falconry

Species	Hunt Season
Mourning; and White-winged Doves	Sep 1–Nov 5, 2025 Nov 22, 2025– Jan 1, 2026
Eurasian Collared Dove	Sep 1–Nov 5, 2025 Nov 22, 2025–Jan 1, 2026
Gambel's Quail	Nov 15, 2025 – Feb 15, 2026

Attention

Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved non-toxic shot is permitted for quail and dove hunting on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

License Information

General hunting license or Small Game License and Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and Waterfowl Identification Permit (for light geese) as required by state and federal law.

Safety and Regulations

- Hunting is permitted in designated areas only.
- Neither hunters nor dogs may enter closed areas to retrieve birds.
- Vehicle entry and parking is restricted to areas posted.
- Fires of any type are prohibited on the refuge.
- Target practice is prohibited on the Refuge.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Entering the refuge under the influence of alcohol or medication to such a degree as to endanger oneself, another person, or property is prohibited.
- Pits or permanent blinds are prohibited.
- Use of vegetation growing on the Refuge for the construction of blinds is prohibited.
- Falcons are permitted in the Rio Puerco Unit only.
- Hunters may not possess more than 25 shotgun shells while in the field.
- Unleashed hunting and/or retrieving dogs are allowed on the refuge when hunters are legally present in areas where hunting is permitted, only if dogs are under the immediate control of hunter at all times, and only to pursue species legally in season at that time.

When in doubt about any regulations, contact the refuge for clarification.

For Additional Information

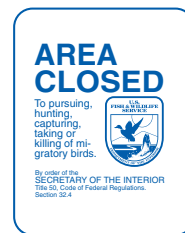
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, New Mexico 87801
505/864-4021
fws.gov/refuge/Sevilleta

The signs below apply to the area behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.



National Wildlife Refuge—This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult Refuge management for authorized activities.

Area Closed—Certain areas of the Refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Hunting Zone—This sign marks the boundary of the no hunting areas on the Refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.

Public Hunting Area—This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl and dove hunting areas. This is the only area where waterfowl and dove hunting are allowed.



August 2025

Sevilleta NWR Rio Puerco Hunt Map

