



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Goose Hunt 2025



Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

General Information

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is seasonally open to hunting the following goose species: Canada goose, cackling goose, greater white-fronted goose, snow goose, and Ross's goose. Goose hunting is allowed by permit only, see details below.

Accessibility Information

Refuge employees strive to accommodate access to all hunters with disabilities. If you require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hunt, please contact the hunt coordinator. Improvements are being made to increase accessibility of the hunt area. Parking Area B has an accessible gate and a compacted gravel road leads from the gate into the hunt area. A non-hunting assistant may accompany a hunter to assist with accessibility if needed.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of federal, 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). Shooting is only allowed from the assigned blinds. Each hunter may only possess 25 or less shells containing approved nontoxic shot while in the hunt area.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with applicable State of New Mexico regulations in addition to the conditions stated.

Hunters must have a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, State of New Mexico hunting license with a management and access validation and a Migratory Bird Permit Number in their possession. For additional information on licensing and regulations refer to the New Mexico Small Game & Waterfowl Rules & Information booklet or www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Hunters must check-in prior to hunting, preferably before sunrise, attend a mandatory orientation, and checkout by 1:30 p.m. at refuge headquarters. Shooting hours end at 1 p.m. Hunting dogs are allowed for bird retrieval and are required to be under close control of their handlers at all times.

Permit Application, Fees, Blinds and Decoys

Applicants will apply for a hunt date on a first come first served basis, with a max hunt group of three on our Recreation.gov website at: <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/5262626>. Hunters will only be able to purchase one group permit at a time, with a one time reservation fee of \$6.00 and each hunter recreation fee of \$9.00 each. All hunters MUST submit a hunter's permit to the hunt coordinator at alyssa_lu@fws.gov by at least two weeks before their hunt date or they are subject to cancellation of their hunts. Please be sure to read all sections on the website before purchasing hunt permits. No refunds will be issued at any time. Each group is only allowed to purchase two hunt dates total. If there is a violation of this rule, violators will be subject to immediate cancellation with no refund, and may be barred from any future hunts on refuge.

On **September 3rd**, the website will open for permit purchasing. Up to three hunters may apply and hunt together from the same blind. Non-hunters and hunters not selected are not permitted to be in the blinds. The blinds are four-foot-deep pits with a moveable camouflage cover. Occasionally pop-up blinds are substituted for management or accessibility reasons. Upon request and approval, a hunter(s) may move to another blind and hunt area if the site and blind are not in use. Hunters are encouraged to bring their own decoys but may borrow up to two dozen goose shell decoys per blind from refuge staff on the day of their hunt. All decoys and other gear must be carried in on foot and packed back out by the end of your hunt.

Welcome

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 national wildlife refuges located throughout the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of wildlife. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat and provide recreational opportunities here people can reconnect to nature.

Access

The refuge headquarters is located 6 miles southeast of the city of Las Vegas on Highway 281, at mile marker 4. Hunt blinds are located a ¼ to ½ mile walk from the parking areas. Access to hunt areas is by foot only.

WHEN: At 5:30 a.m. on the day of the hunt, refuge staff are at the visitor center for mandatory orientation and to loan out decoys. Shooting hours are ½ hour before legal sunrise to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Goose Hunt Area only (see map).

The refuge may close all or part of the hunt area including parking areas without notice to safeguard refuge resources or for safety reasons.

Daily Bag Limit

Each permitted hunter can have an aggregate bag limit of 6 on their designated hunt date not to exceed the New Mexico state species limit.

Season

A hunter is assigned one hunt date:

Thursday, November 6

Thursday, November 13

Thursday, November 20

Tuesday, November 25

Thursday, December 4

Thursday, December 11

Thursday, December 18

Tuesday, December 30

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
435 NM HWY 281, Mile Marker 4
Las Vegas, NM 87701

505-425-3581

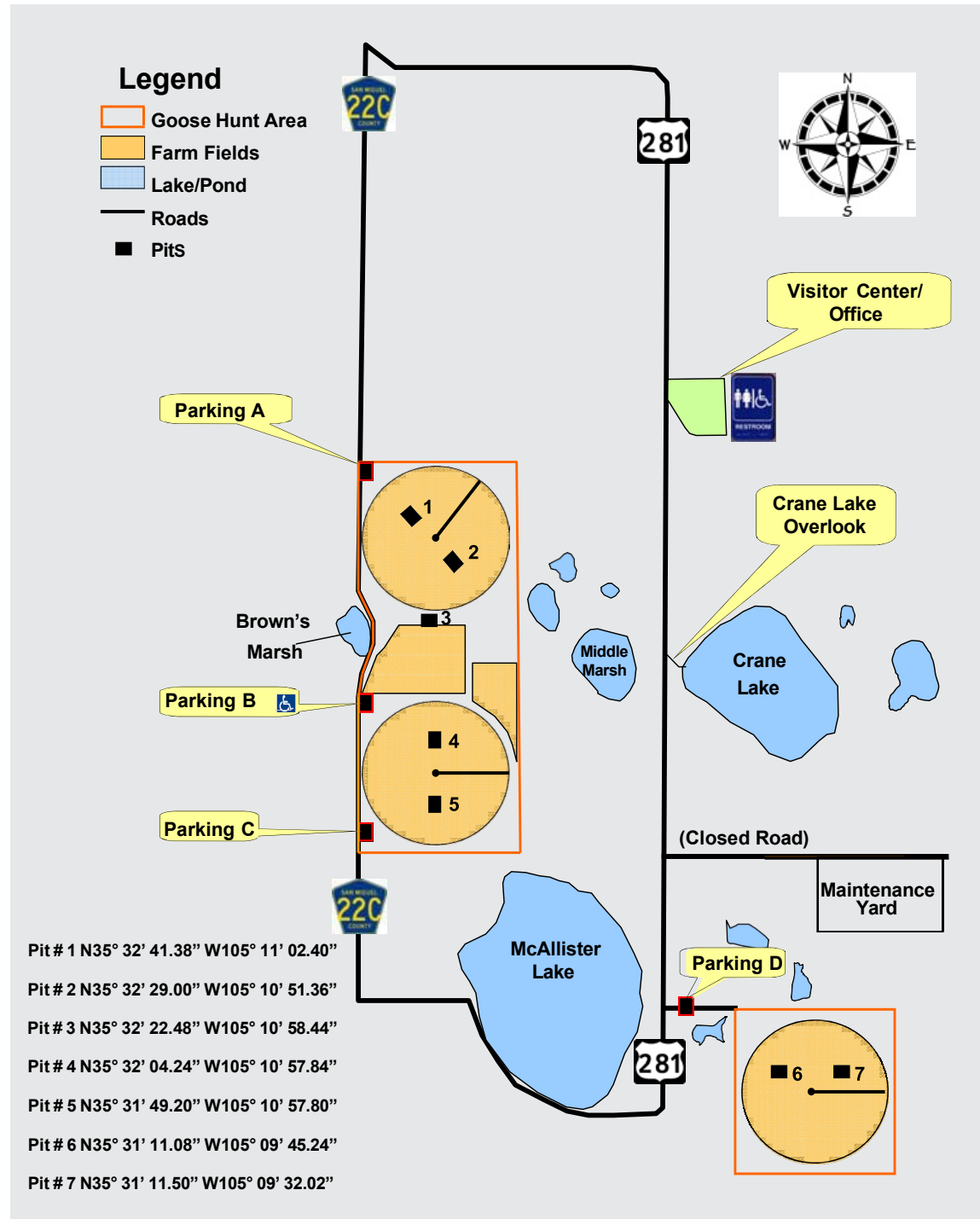
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/las-vegas>

March 2025

Hunt Coordinator Information

alyssa_lu@fws.gov
505-398-6481

Goose Hunt Area



Prohibited Activities

- Hunting or taking any species other than Canada goose, cackling goose, greater white-fronted goose, snow goose, and Ross's goose
- Hunting on any area not designated as the Goose Hunt Area
- Shooting while outside of the assigned blinds
- Possessing more than 25 shells while in the hunt area
- Target shooting/practice
- Hunting by falconry
- Possessing shells containing toxic shot while in the hunt area
- Hunters or retrieval dogs entering closed areas to retrieve birds
- Dogs off leash when not hunting.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants while hunting
- Goose plucking or gutting, or littering of any kind