



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dove and Upland Game



Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2025

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 where people can reconnect to nature.

Access

Access to the hunt area is through gates located in the designated parking areas along County Road C22C.

Parking is permitted only in designated parking areas. Access is by foot only.

WHEN: Shooting hours are ½ hour before legal sunrise to sunset.

WHERE: Dove and Upland Game Hunt Area only (see map). State and County road right-of-ways are closed to hunting.

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

Season

September 1 through September 30

Daily Bag Limit

15 Mourning doves (45 in possession)
White-winged doves (no bag limit)
Eurasian-collared dove (no bag limit)
Desert cottontail rabbit (incidental)
Eastern cottontail rabbit (incidental)

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
435 NM HWY 281 Mile Marker 4
Las Vegas, NM 87701
505-425-3581

fws.gov/refuge/las-vegas/

For State relay service: 1-800-659-8331

March 2025

Hunt Coordinator Information

alyssa_lu@fws.gov
505-398-6481

General Information

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is seasonally open to hunting the following species: mourning dove, white-winged dove, Eurasian collared-dove, desert cottontail rabbit, and eastern cottontail rabbit. Desert and Eastern cottontail rabbits are incidental take only. Hunting for dove and rabbits will be allowed on Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge in the designated area only (see map). Each person in the hunt area must have a refuge hunt permit in their possession. Hunters 17 years old or younger must hunt under the supervision of a hunter 21 years of age or older.

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 refuge. 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). Dove and Upland Game may be taken with a shotgun fired from the shoulder, provided it is no larger than 10-gauge and is not capable of holding more than three (3) shells total. Only shells containing federally approved nontoxic shot may be used or possessed while on the refuge. Hunters may also use muzzle-loading shotguns, bows, and crossbows.

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. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of New Mexico regulations in addition to the conditions stated.

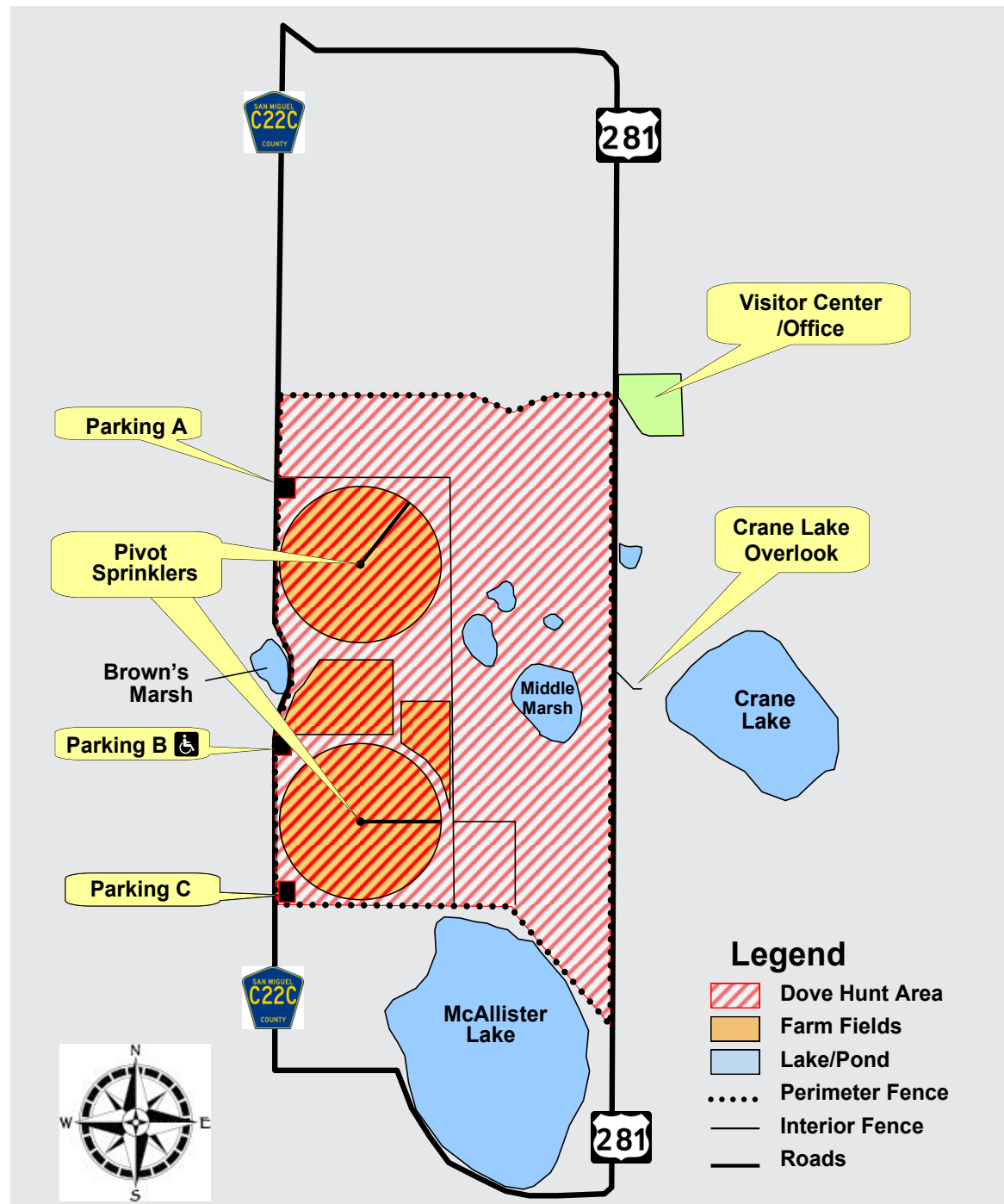
Hunters must have all New Mexico state required licenses and other appropriate permits or stamps. For rabbits only, New Mexico residents are not required to have a license, and nonresidents must possess either a Nonresident Nongame License or a current New Mexico Nonresident Game Hunting license. For additional information on licensing and regulations refer to the New Mexico Small Game & Waterfowl Rules & Information booklet or www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Hunting dogs are allowed for bird retrieval and are required to be under close control of their handlers at all times.

Permit Process

Sign and date the dashed box on the other side of this brochure. This will serve as your acknowledgement of the regulations and as your hunting permit for the Dove and Upland Game hunts at Las Vegas NWR. Keep this brochure on you while you hunt.

Dove and Upland Game Hunt Area



Prohibited Activities

- Hunting or taking any species other than mourning dove, white-winged dove, Eurasian collared-dove, desert cottontail rabbit, or eastern cottontail rabbit.
- Hunting on any area not designated as the Dove and Upland Game Hunt Area.
- Hunting from a designated State or County road right-of-ways.
- Shooting within 75 yards of sprinklers, pivot centers, and motors.
- Shooting within 50 yards of the hunt area perimeter fence.
- Possessing shells containing toxic shot while in the hunt area.
- Target shooting/practice.
- 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.
- Dove plucking, gutting or littering of any kind.
- Rabbit field dressing, gutting or littering of any kind.

Hunt Reporting

Hunt reporting forms required to be submitted by mail or in Visitor Center after hunt.

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Permit

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for the 2025 Dove and Upland Game Hunt and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Expires October 1, 2025

Sign and date (permits are not transferable)