

Online Information for Hunters

Where is the closest national wildlife refuge that offers turkey hunting for people with disabilities?

You don't need to guess – or start phoning individual refuges. A new National Wildlife Refuge System interactive Web site, Your Guide to Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/>), lets hunters search by game species (for example, deer, waterfowl, big game), zip code and special needs or interests (youth, universally accessible) – or any combination of those requirements – to find a refuge that has what they're after. You can also search by refuge name or state name.

Hunting, within specified limits, is permitted on more than 300 national wildlife refuges. Of these, 43 – including Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland and Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona – offer accessible turkey hunting; 97 refuges offer youth hunts.

Refuge hunts are carefully managed to give hunters a quality experience according to four guiding principles: 1) to manage wildlife populations consistent with approved management plans, 2) to promote visitor understanding and appreciation for America's natural wildlife resources, 3) to provide quality recreational and educational experiences and 4) to minimize conflicts with visitors participating in other wildlife-dependent recreational activities.

The Web site also offers tips to hunters planning to visit a national wildlife refuge, information on archery hunting, and special stories about hunting in Alaska and becoming a more effective waterfowl hunter, among other elements. The Web site also provides information about state hunting licenses.