

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Information



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.



Welcome

Welcome to Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Established in 1952, Monte Vista NWR contains 14,804 acres of wetland and upland habitat to provide food, cover, migration, and breeding habitat for birds and other wildlife. A large portion of the Refuge is designated as a wildlife sanctuary and is closed to public access.

General Information

Activities are permitted one hour before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset.

This brochure contains information for limited migratory birds and small game hunting on the Monte Vista NWR. If you would like information about elk hunting, only allowed with a Special Refuge Access Elk Permit, contact Refuge staff at 719-589-4021.

Safety

Be aware of and courteous to other hunters, visitors, and staff while hunting.

Prohibited Activities

- Camping and fires.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol while hunting.
- Possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- Unmanned aircraft systems, including drones.
- Littering, including spent shell casings.
- Searching for or removing cultural artifacts, fossils, or animal parts, including antler sheds.

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.)

Vehicles

Off-highway vehicles, such as snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), or utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) cannot be used on the refuge. The use of game carts or other non-motorized methods to transport hunting equipment to and from the hunting area is allowed.

Hunters may access hunting areas by foot from public roads. All vehicles on the Refuge must be parked in designated parking areas.

Access to the non-motorized portion of the hunting area is limited to walking, horseback, and bicycling, including e-bikes. Bicycles and e-bikes are restricted to established roads/trails. E-bikes are bicycles with a small electric motor (less than 1 horsepower). The operator of an e-bike may only use the small electric motor to assist pedal propulsion. The motor may not be used to propel an e-bike without the rider also pedaling, except in locations open to public motor vehicle traffic.

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 is allowed on the Refuge in accordance with State regulations and the Refuge-specific regulations in this brochure.

Turn in Poachers - TIPS

1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477) or
1-877-COLO-OGT (265-6648)

Hunting Regulations Table

Hunting is in accordance with State regulations. In addition, Refuge-specific regulations must be followed and are listed in the table below.

Activity	Season Dates and Harvest	Other Regulations
American coot, dove, duck, goose, merganser, Wilson's snipe	State season and regulations apply	<p>Eurasian collared-dove hunting only allowed during the mourning dove season.</p> <p>Method of take includes shotguns, handheld bows, and hawking/falconry.</p> <p>The use of dogs for hunting and retrieving is permitted. Dogs must be under immediate control and may not interfere with other hunter's activities.</p> <p>Decoys and blinds cannot be left unattended and must be removed from the hunting area daily.</p> <p>Non-toxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting. Possession of lead shot while in the field is prohibited.</p> <p>Hunters may access areas open to hunting from parking areas 1-5. Access from parking areas 6, 7, and 8 is prohibited.</p>
Cottontail, jackrabbit	State season and regulations apply	<p>Method of take includes shotguns, rifles firing rimfire cartridges less than .23 caliber, hand-held bows, pellet guns, slingshots, and hawking/falconry.</p> <p>Non-toxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting. Possession of lead shot while in the field is prohibited.</p> <p>Hunters may access areas open to hunting from parking areas 1-5. Access from parking areas 6, 7, and 8 is prohibited.</p>
Elk	Special Refuge Access Elk Permit required	Hunters must have a valid State elk hunting license, and apply for and receive a Special Refuge Access Elk Permit through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Contact 719-587-6900 or email: montevista.wildlife@state.co.us .

See map for areas open to hunting.

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge
6120 Hwy 15
Monte Vista, CO 81144

Refuge staff can be contacted at:
9383 El Rancho Ln
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-4021

alamosa@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/monte_vista/

For State Transfer Relay Service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

For Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

September 2021



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.

Monte Vista

National Wildlife Refuge

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Refuge boundary |  Hunt area for all permitted species |  Restroom |
|  U.S. highway |  Elk hunt area |  Information |
|  State highway |  Bureau of Land Management land |  Parking |
|  Public road |  Rivers/Waterways |  Parking area and information |
|  Service roads (non-motorized use) |  Wetlands | |
|  Wildlife Drive | | |

