

Welcome to National Elk Refuge

The National Elk Refuge is one of over 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands and waters set aside specifically for wildlife conservation. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is dedicated to preserving a rich wildlife and habitat heritage for people today and for generations to come.

Required Licenses

Fishing is allowed on the National Elk Refuge in accordance with State law and Refuge-specific regulations, as described below. A State of Wyoming fishing license is required when fishing Refuge waters. A conservation stamp is also required for resident and non-resident annual license holders; holders of daily fishing licenses do not need a conservation stamp.

Fishing licenses can be purchased at several locations in Jackson:

- The Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center located at 532 North Cache Street.
- The Wyoming Game & Fish Department Jackson Regional Office located at 420 North Cache Street.
- Local sports businesses.

Refuge Regulations

- Refer to Wyoming Fishing Regulations for size and limit restrictions.
- Refuge access is limited to daylight hours only.
- Access to Refuge waters is only permitted for the purpose of fishing. Access to Refuge waters for any other public use, such as photography, picnicking, and hiking, is not allowed.
- Pets, boats, or other floating devices, overnight camping, and fires are prohibited.
- Vehicles must be parked in established lots or turnouts.
- Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.
- The use or possession of fish, fish eggs (real or artificial), or fish parts for bait is prohibited.
- Worms and bait other than bait fish are permitted on the Gros Ventre River, Upper Flat Creek and Sleeping Indian Pond.
- Refuge special use permits are required for all commercial activities, including commercially guided fishing.

National Elk Refuge Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted on the National Elk Refuge in compliance with laws and regulations of the State of Wyoming and is subject to the regulations of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System."

Contact Information

National Elk Refuge Administrative Office

PO Box 510
675 E. Broadway Avenue
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 733 9212
www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge

Wyoming Game & Fish Department

PO Box 67
420 North Cache Street
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 733 2321

**In an emergency, dial 911.
Teton Interagency Dispatch
307 / 739 3301**

**For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov**

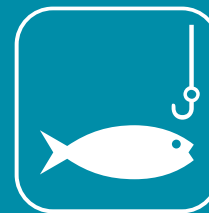
**For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD**

April 2021



National Elk Refuge

Fishing Regulations



Open Waters

Gros Ventre River is open April 1 - November 30. The Gros Ventre River from the east Refuge boundary downstream to the U.S. Highway 89 bridge is closed to fishing from December 1 through March 31 to protect wintering wildlife. Access is through Grand Teton National Park along the Gros Ventre Road.

Upper Flat Creek is open upstream from the McBride Bridge to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary from May 1 through November 30.

Lower Flat Creek and Nowlin Creek are open to fishing from August 1 through October 31 between posted boundaries. These boundaries are from the posted southern boundary upstream to the McBride Bridge on the Flat Creek Road and up Nowlin Creek from its confluence with Flat Creek to the Closed Area boundary sign. Area restricted to artificial flies only.

Sleeping Indian Pond is located at the Jackson National Fish Hatchery. Fishing hours at the pond are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The creel limit is restricted to one fish per day per licensed angler. This location is also designated as an area for anglers with disabilities.

All other Refuge waters are closed to fishing.

Snake River Cutthroat Trout

Refuge waters provide critical habitat for the only native trout to the region, the Snake River cutthroat trout.

Invasive Species

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department and the National Elk Refuge promote best practices to prevent the spread of unwanted Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Anglers are asked to DRAIN, CLEAN, and DRY all fishing gear before re-use in a new body of water.

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.

