



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fishing and Bullfrogging 2025

Bosque del Apache

National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Bosque del Apache

Along the banks of the Rio Grande lies Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge: a rest-stop, home, and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Since 1939, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts from around the world have been drawn to this oasis in the Chihuahuan Desert which consistently provides outstanding wildlife observation opportunities on over 57,000 acres of public land.

Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge
1001 Highway 1 San Antonio, NM 87832
575-835-1828
www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache
For relay service TTY/Voice: 711

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.
www.fws.gov
800-344-WILD (9453)

Report wildlife crimes: 844-FWS-TIPS
(397-8477) or FWS_TIPS@fws.gov

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities at 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 at www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights.

The Boardwalk and adjacent parking are fully accessible. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate in fishing or frogging, please contact the refuge at least three weeks prior to your visit.

Safety

At any time, you may encounter stinging insects, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, or other potentially dangerous wildlife or plants. Stay away from water control structures and be careful on steep banks.

Commercial Activities

We only allow commercial activities such as commercial fishery activities, guiding, or outfitting, with a commercial special use permit issued by Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Fishing and Frogging Regulations

Fishing and frogging regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Fishing and frogging are allowed in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of New Mexico regulations, bag limits and license requirements, subject to the conditions stated below. The most restrictive regulation will apply. For more information, visit the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/home/publications/ or call: 888-248-6866.

Fish may only be taken by hook and line.

Access

WHEN: We allow fishing and frogging from April 1 through September 30. You may only be on the refuge one hour before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset. Fishing and frogging are allowed from one-half hour before legal sunrise to one-half hour after legal sunset.

WHERE: We allow fishing and frogging on certain canals in areas normally open to the public (including Elmendorf/ Interior Drain and the east side of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel - the Bike Trail side), and the wetland that the Boardwalk spans.

HOW: The fishing and frogging areas are accessed from the North Loop and the South Loop. We allow the use of bicycles only on designated roads and the Bike Trail. We do not allow the driving of motor vehicles off-road.

Frogging

We only allow American bullfrogs to be taken and no other frog species. We only allow the use of hook and line, spears, gigs, and archery equipment to take bullfrogs.

Bullfrogs are non-native, voracious predators of many native insects, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. Removing bullfrogs from the refuge helps protect native species including the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse that swims and climbs through plants growing near water.

Prohibited Activities

We do not allow bow fishing, spear fishing, seining, dip netting, traps or the use of trotlines.

We do not allow disturbing, injuring, spearing, poisoning, destroying, or attempting to disturb, injure, spear, poison, or destroy any plant or animal not expressly authorized for take.

We do not allow camping or being on the refuge between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

We do not allow the introduction or placement of plants and animals or their parts to or on the refuge.

We do not allow littering, abandoning, discarding, or otherwise leaving any personal property.

We do not allow searching for, disturbing, defacing, or unauthorized removal of any items such as historic or archaeological features.

We do not allow the cutting of vegetation or the collecting of any plant, rock, animal parts or animals, such as turtles or salamanders, not expressly authorized for take.

We do not allow boating, floating, swimming or wading in any arroyos, wetlands, water delivery ditches, canals, drains, or channels.

We do not allow open fires.

