



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dove Hunting Regulations 2026

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Dove Hunting at Balcones Canyonlands

Dove hunting is allowed at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge from noon to sunset during the first four days of Texas dove season.

Refuge staff established and improved habitat on one approximately 279-acre tract of land. Within this tract, several fields ranging in size from approximately one acre to five acres are managed for native sunflower to attract doves. A pond and a stream bisect a portion of this dove hunting area.

This property is located approximately 8 miles west of Liberty Hill, Texas. The address is:

451 County Road 286 Spur
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Hunting Safety

- Do not shoot at low-flying birds under any circumstance.
- Do not shoot at birds perched on power lines.
- Be aware of the positions of your fellow hunters.

Balcones Canyonlands NWR
24518 FM 1431, Box 1
Marble Falls, TX 78654
512/339-9432

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones-Canyonlands/>

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This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Hunting Permits

Hunters must purchase a permit at the dove hunting area check-in station during the designated hunting times and dates. The dove hunting permit is \$20.00, and is good for all four afternoon hunts.

The refuge only accepts cash. This cash must be inserted in the permit envelope, which is available at the on-site check-in station. The hunter must place the \$20.00 cash in the envelope then detach the receipt, which also serves as the permit. The remaining envelope with cash is to be placed in the honor vault at the check-in station. You must pay for, possess, and carry the refuge permit while hunting.

For safety purposes, the total number of hunters will be limited to 70 participants on a first-come first-served basis.

Dove Hunting Regulations

In addition to federal regulations, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department laws and regulations are in effect unless further restricted by federal law or regulation.

- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges 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).
- We require proof that hunters possess a valid Texas hunting license.
- Legal game includes mourning doves, white-winged doves, rock doves (pigeons) and Eurasian collared-doves.
- We require the use of approved non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting (such as steel or bismuth).
- We prohibit shooting at other birds or wildlife during this hunt.
- Hunters age 17 or under must be under the direct supervision of an adult aged 18 older.
- We allow scouting on the property only during the designated dove hunting times and dates.
- We allow the use of dogs for retrieving game birds; they must be under the handler's control at all times.
- We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol of any kind on refuge lands.
- We may immediately close the entire refuge or any portion thereof to hunting for the protection of resources as determined by the refuge manager.
- No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged doves. Rock doves and Eurasian collared doves have no bag limit.
- We allow vehicular travel on designated roads and in parking areas. We prohibit hunting from roads and blocking access to any road or trail entering or on the refuge.
- Participants are required to park in designated areas.
- Please observe the 25 mph speed limit and exercise caution when driving on the asphalt road since this road is used by trucks entering and exiting the adjacent quarry.
- A hunter may bring up to two guests. Guests may not carry, hold, or shoot a firearm. Guests must remain with, and be in sight of, permitted hunter.

