



Glacial Ridge

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2004 as the 545th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Glacial Ridge Project began in the early 2000s, when The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other partners began to restore thousands of acres of tallgrass prairie and wetland habitats. This Project is known for being the largest contiguous prairie-wetland restoration project in the U.S. These restorations not only returned important ecological processes to the local landscape, but also provided a mosaic of habitats, including grassland, shrubland, savanna, and wetlands to a diversity of migratory birds and other wildlife.

To Report Violations

Contact the Glacial Ridge NWR Refuge Manager at 218-687-2229, a local conservation officer, or call the Minnesota Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 800-652-9093.

17788 349th St. SE
Erskine, MN 56535

218-687-2229

TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD (9453)

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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

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public roads and designated parking areas, as shown on the map.

Accessibility Information

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, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are 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 will be in accordance with applicable State of Minnesota regulations subject to the conditions stated below. Tear sheets may be obtained by mail, at the Rydell/Glacial Ridge refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

Access

Hunters may park in designated refuge parking areas within the refuge. Hunters may also park along public roadways throughout the refuge. Blocking gates or trails is prohibited. All ATV, UTV, and snowmobile use is prohibited.

Hunters may only access the refuge from 2 hours before legal sunrise until 2 hours after legal sunset.

The use of wheeled, non-motorized conveyance devices (e.g., game carts) is allowed.

Stands and Blinds

Treestands and ground blinds must be removed daily. Use of nails, spikes, and screw-in steps is prohibited. Hunters must also dismantle hunting blinds made from natural vegetation at the end of each day.

Big Game Regulations

Deer and bear are huntable species.

Migratory Bird and Upland Game Regulations

Huntable species include: ducks, geese, coots, rails, snipe, crows, woodcock, cottontail and jack rabbits, snowshoe hares, gray and fox squirrels, badgers, bobcats, weasels, racoons, red and gray foxes, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, turkey (spring and fall), Hungarian partridge, prairie chicken (and sharp-tailed grouse) for those with a special MN prairie chicken permit.

- Migratory bird hunting is only allowed in designated portions of the refuge (*see hunt map*).
- Crows cannot be hunted after the last day of February.
- Hunting is not allowed during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order.
- Non-motorized boats can be used in areas open to migratory bird hunting.
- Dogs may be used but must be under control of the hunter at all times. Bobcat and fox cannot be hunted with dogs.
- Non-toxic shot is required for all bird hunting (including wild turkey).
- Fox and raccoon cannot be hunted at night. Hunting for these species must only occur ½ before legal sunrise until ½ hour after legal sunset.
- Only hunters who possess a Minnesota DNR prairie chicken permit can hunt prairie chickens or sharp-tailed grouse on the refuge, and only during the special 9-day State season.
- Hunting can only occur between Sept. 1 and the last day of February.





Unprotected Animals

Huntible species include: coyote, porcupine, striped skunk, woodchuck, red/pine squirrel, pigeon/rock dove, Eurasian collared dove, chukar partridge, and quail other than bobwhite.

Take of huntible unprotected animals can only occur between September 1 and the last day of February.

Hunting for these species must only occur ½ before legal sunrise until ½ hour after legal sunset.

Coyotes cannot be hunted with dogs.

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

- Possession of alcoholic beverages
- Overnight parking, camping, fires, and littering
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, plants, historic, and archaeological features, protected by Federal law.
- Use of trail/game cameras.
- Marking or flagging any tree or other refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance. Cutting trails or trimming trees.
- Commercial guiding or participating in a paid commercial hunt.
- Taking or harassing any animal other than those authorized to hunt.
- Use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to spot, locate or take any wild animal.
- Use of any aircraft, drones, and other unmanned aerial vehicles on the refuge - for either recreational or commercial purposes.
- Use of dogs for hunting bobcat, fox, or coyote.
- Target shooting
- Distribution of feed or bait, mineral blocks, or hunting over bait. (This includes bear hunting)
- Shooting at game from, across, or within 30 feet of the edge of a road open to public transportation.
- Use of horses.
- Lead shot use with anything other than single projectile ammunition (e.g., shotgun slugs, muzzleloaders, rimfire and centerfire rifles).
- Hunting within the closed portion of the refuge or hunting migratory birds within a portion of the refuge not open to them.
- Not removing harvested animals from the refuge.