



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rio Puerco Unit

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2026-2027

Hunting in the Rio Puerco Unit

590 acres located adjacent to the Rio Puerco in central New Mexico.

Hunting shall be in accordance with all applicable Federal and State Regulations. Please refer to the New Mexico Department of Wildlife Hunting Rules and Information and Migratory Game Bird Supplement.

Non-Toxic Shot and Ammunition

Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved non-toxic shot and ammunition is permitted for hunting on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

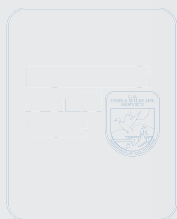
License Information

Hunters must comply with all applicable State regulations and must obtain all necessary State licenses, tags, or permits for each season. All hunters for non-game or unprotected species must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation tag.

**Sevilleta National Wildlife
Refuge P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, NM 87801**

**505/864-4021
fws.gov/refuge/Sevilleta**

August 2026



Species/Hunt season

Hunting is allowed in the Rio Puerco Unit, Monday-Sunday from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.

General Season

Species	Hunt Season
Dove (Mourning, White-winged, Eurasian Collared)	Sep. 1-Oct. 28, 2026 Dec. 1, 2026-Jan. 1, 2027
Quail (Gambel's, Montezuma, Scaled)	Nov. 15, 2026- Feb. 15, 2027
Desert cottontail/ Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Sep. 1, 2026 - Feb. 15, 2027

Falconry

Species	Hunt Season
Dove (Mourning, White-winged, Eurasian Collared)	Sep. 1-Nov 5., 2026 Nov. 22, 2026- Jan. 1, 2027
Quail (Gambel's, Montezuma, Scaled)	Nov. 15, 2026- Feb. 15, 2027
Desert cottontail/ Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Sep. 1, 2026 - Feb. 15, 2027

Safety and Regulations

- Hunting is permitted in designated areas only.
- Hunting dogs are permitted for all hunts. Unleashed hunting and/or retrieving dogs are allowed on the refuge when hunters are legally present in areas where hunting is permitted, only if dogs are under the immediate control of hunter at all times, and only to pursue species legally in season at that time.
- Neither hunters nor dogs may enter closed areas to retrieve birds.
- Vehicle entry and parking is restricted to areas posted.
- Littering is prohibited, including the disposal of shell casings, brass, and other debris.
- Entering the refuge under the influence of alcohol or medication to such a degree as to endanger oneself, another person, or property is prohibited.

Signs and Boundaries

Please respect the following signs:



- National Wildlife Refuge: This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult Refuge management for authorized activities.
- Area Closed: Certain areas of the Refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.
- No Hunting Zone: This sign marks the boundary of the no hunting areas on the Refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.
- Public Hunting Area: This sign marks the boundaries of the Rio Puerco Unit.

When in doubt about any regulations, contact the refuge for clarification.

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



Sevilleta NWR Rio Puerco Hunt Unit Map

