



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rocky Flats

National Wildlife Refuge Elk Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Welcome to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is located in north-central Colorado, was established in 2005 and contains 5,237 acres of wetlands, uplands, and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Rocky Flats NWR is part of the Colorado Front Range NWR Complex, which includes Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Two Ponds NWRs.

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Physical Address
16500 W 120. 120th Avenue
Superior, CO 80022

Contact Information
Rocky Flats NWR
6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, CO
303/ 289 0232
www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky-flats

For State Relay Service
TTY/ Voice: 711

For Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

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

August 2026

REPORT VIOLATIONS
1-844 / FWS TIPS (397-8477)
1-877 / COLO OGT (265-6648)
FWSOLE_Tips@fws.gov

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



Elk Hunting

Limited elk hunting is allowed on Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. For your safety and the safety of others, be aware that other visitors, staff, researchers, and contractors could be present in the hunt area. Don't shoot towards roads, houses, vehicles, livestock, infrastructure, or people.

Archery Season: 9/17- 9/28. Firearm Season: 10/1-12/14.

Rest days: Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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.)

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. Hunters with mobility disadvantages should consult with the Refuge Manager for allowed accommodations. 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 regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is 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 Colorado regulations, subject to the conditions stated below.

Hunters can access and hunt in the general elk hunting area from designated parking areas or trails only.

Hunters may use horseback, bicycle, or class 1 E-bikes on established trails only and from parking areas or public roads. Off-trail hunting should be done on foot.

Using portable blinds or dead and down natural vegetation as a blind is permitted.

Hunter orange is required during firearm seasons while hunting and during retrieval.

Hunters may be accompanied in the field by one non hunting mentor/ assistant. However, during retrieval of downed animals, hunters may be accompanied by additional individuals (4-5). Hunter orange is required for all members of the party.

Methods of retrieval include foot, horseback, bicycle, or game cart.

Access to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) lands is prohibited. If an elk must be retrieved from DOE lands, immediately contact the Refuge for assistance.

All personal property, including trash and ammunition casings/ shells, must be removed at the end of each day.

The entire designated elk hunting area or any portion thereof may be closed to hunting for the protection of habitat/ wildlife resources, management activities or safety issues as determined by the Refuge Manager.

Hunting is prohibited outside of the designated hunt area.

Hunting Regulations Cont.

All hunters must possess and carry a Colorado issued elk license valid for Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

As the permitted hunter, you will need your state of Colorado elk hunting license and the signed refuge brochure in your possession while hunting.

Prohibited Activities

Hunting any species not specifically listed.

Use or possession of lead ammunition while hunting.

Use of center-fire rifles and handguns.

Use of dogs.

Use of ATV's, UTV's, ORV's, amphibious vehicles, snowmobiles, and other road vehicles.

Use of aircraft (drones) including launching on, landing on, and flying over Refuge lands.

Use or possession of alcohol while hunting.

Use or possession of a controlled substance or any drug paraphernalia.

Camping, open fires and overnight parking.

Fires, except in portable gas stoves in established parking area.

Searching for, collecting, taking, and possession of artifacts, fossils, and animal parts, including shed antlers.

Use of any tree stand that implements bolts, nails, screws, wires or screw in steps.

Use of flagging, trail markers, paint, reflective tacks, or any other types of markers.

Baiting.

Discharge of a firearm for reasons other than approved uses.

Discharge of firearms towards roads, houses, vehicles, livestock, infrastructure or people.

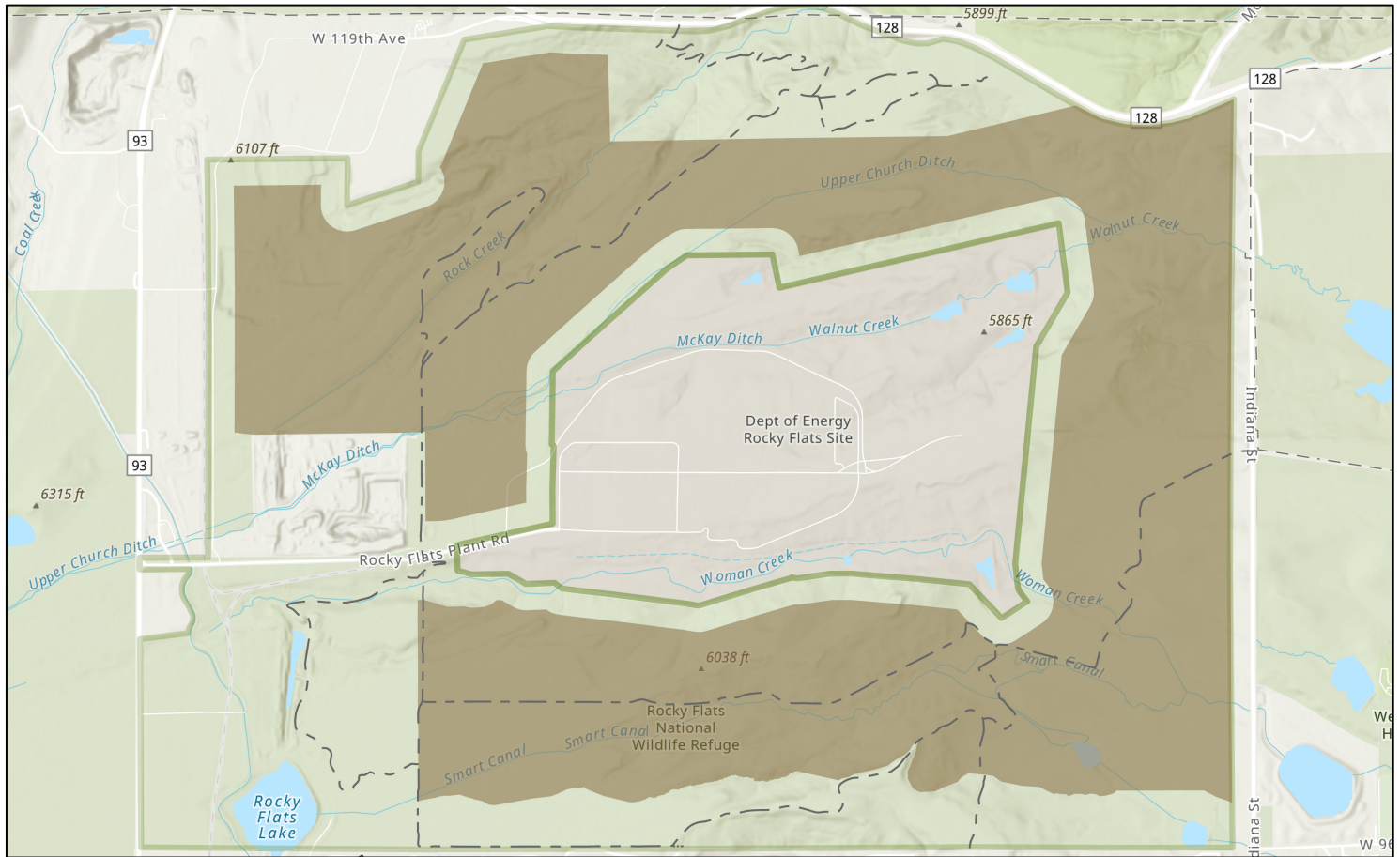
Access

Hunters may only access the Refuge one hour before legal sunrise until one hour after legal sunset. Hunters with downed animals can remain on the Refuge beyond one hour of sunset. Pre-season scouting is permitted only from open public road, public trails, and parking lots.



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Refuge Boundary

Elk Hunting Area

Hiking Trails

1:33,000

0 0.5 Miles

0 0.5 Kilometers

Datum: North American 1983