



*This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Baca National Wildlife Refuge

## *Elk Hunting Regulations*

### Welcome to Baca National Wildlife Refuge

Baca National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado. Established in 2003, the purpose of the Refuge is to "restore, enhance, and maintain wetland, upland, riparian, and other habitats for native wildlife, plant, and fish species native to the San Luis Valley, with an emphasis on migratory birds." The Refuge is one of three national wildlife refuges found in the Valley. Together with Alamosa and Monte Vista NWRs, they form the San Luis Valley NWR Complex. These refuges are a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of over 565 refuges set aside and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specifically for the needs of wildlife. The Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and generations to come.

### Elk Hunting on Baca NWR

Elk hunting is allowed on Baca NWR in designated areas (see map). For your safety and the safety of others, be aware that other visitors, staff, researchers, permittees, cattle, and sheep could be present within the hunt area. Don't shoot towards roads, houses, vehicles, livestock, or people.

### Hunters must follow all established State statutes and regulations, in addition to the following refuge-specific regulations:

- All hunters must possess and carry a Colorado issued elk license valid in Game Management Unit 82. Private Land Only (PLO) licenses are not valid.
- Hunters with mobility disabilities should consult with the Refuge Manager for allowed accommodations.
- The Refuge is open for day use only, with access from 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset. Hunters with downed animals can remain on the Refuge beyond one hour after sunset. Hunters using firearms can only access and hunt in the General Elk Hunting Area, not the Archery Elk Hunting Area.

- Hunters using archery can access/hunt both the Archery Elk Hunting Area and General Elk Hunting Area. Vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas.
- Hunters may access elk hunting areas by foot, horseback, or bicycle from parking areas or public roads. Bicycles are not allowed in wilderness study areas.
- Hunters may be accompanied in the field by one additional person. However, during retrieval of downed animals, hunters may be accompanied by additional individuals (4-5).
- Methods of retrieval include foot, horseback, bicycle, or game cart; however, bicycles and game carts are not allowed in the wilderness study area.
- If an elk is taken in a meadow (hay), the entire carcass must be removed to prevent damage to farm equipment.
- All personal property, including trash and rifle casings, 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.

### Prohibited Activities

- Pre-season scouting is not allowed. The Refuge is only open during GMU 82 elk seasons.
- Use of handguns is prohibited.
- Dogs are not allowed.
- Motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, are not permitted in the elk hunting areas.
- All uses of aircraft (drones) on the Refuge are prohibited, including launching on, landing on, and flying over refuge lands.
- Camping and overnight parking are prohibited.
- Fires are prohibited on the Refuge, except in portable gas stoves in established parking areas.
- Use of flagging, paint, blazes, or reflective markers is prohibited.

- Use or possession of alcohol while hunting is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to possess a controlled substance or any drug paraphernalia on the Refuge.
- Searching for, collecting, taking, and possession of artifacts, fossils, and animal parts, including antler sheds, is prohibited.

**To Report Violations on Federal Refuge Land,** dial 1 800 / 397 8477 or email [FWS\\_TIPS@fws.gov](mailto:FWS_TIPS@fws.gov)

### 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. Dial 711 for a free connection to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact Baca National Wildlife Refuge staff at 719 / 256 5527 or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

### Contact Information

Baca National Wildlife Refuge  
9812 County Road T / PO Box 247  
Crestone, CO 81131  
719 / 256 5527  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Baca/>

**For State Relay Service**  
TTY / Voice: 711

**For Refuge Information**  
1 800 / 344 WILD

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
1 800 / 344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>



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# Baca

## National Wildlife Refuge Elk Hunting Map

-  Refuge boundary
-  U.S. highway
-  State highway
-  County roads
-  Primitive refuge roads (no motorized vehicles)
-  US BOR\* road (no motorized vehicles)
-  General elk hunting area
-  Archery elk hunting area
-  Areas closed to all access
-  Wilderness study area
-  US BOR Closed Basin Canal (no public access)
-  Elk hunting parking areas
-  Refuge headquarters

\*US Bureau of Reclamation

