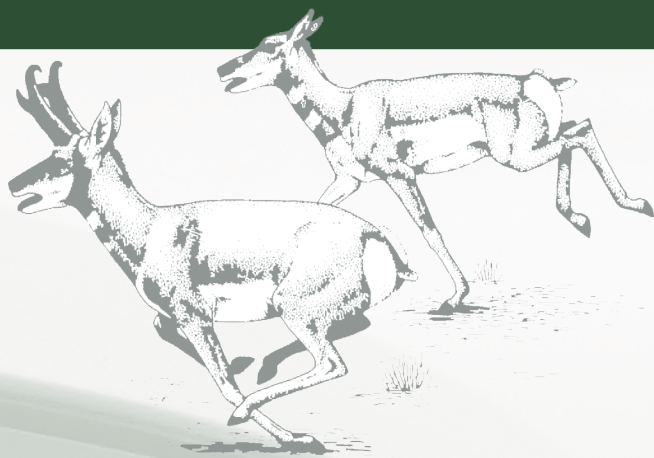


Hart Mountain

National Antelope Refuge

Regulations & Recreational Activities



Welcome

Established in 1936 to provide habitat for remnant pronghorn herds, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (NAR) has since broadened its conservation umbrella to include all wildlife and native plant species who call the high desert of the Great Basin home.

Wildlife Recreation

Wildlife-dependent recreation is a priority at National Wildlife Refuges including wildlife observation, wildlife photography, hunting and fishing.

All public use recreational activities on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (NAR) are regulated to protect wildlife. Regulations on other nearby public lands are different. While managed to protect wildlife and maintain the rugged, remote, and undeveloped character of the Refuge a wide variety of opportunities are available for visitors to experience and explore.



Pets must be leashed or confined, except dogs used for bird hunting. Hunting dogs must be kept under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.



Camping is permitted year-round for up to 14 days only in designated campgrounds or with a back-country permit. Camp Hart Mountain and Hot Springs campgrounds are road accessible year-round, except for inclement weather related temporary closures. Road access to other camping areas may be impassable seasonally. All campgrounds are primitive with pit toilets.

Backcountry Camping is a great way to experience some of the more remote parts of the Refuge. A self-issued permit explaining additional rules and regulations is required before you depart. Permits are available at the Refuge Headquarters or online at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart_mountain/



Drinking water is available at Camp Hart Mountain and Refuge Headquarters.



Campfires are permitted only in designated fire rings where provided. Campfires may be further restricted during periods of increased fire danger – check for campfire restrictions posted at Refuge Headquarters, kiosks and campgrounds. Bring your own firewood because collecting firewood within the Refuge is prohibited.



Garbage collection, trash cans, and septic dumping facilities are not provided on the Refuge. Discarding trash or leaving items on the Refuge is prohibited—please pack out what you pack in!



Fishing is allowed only in Rock Creek, Guano Creek, and Warner Pond. Check current Oregon state regulations for seasons, limits and other requirements.



Hunting for some big game and upland bird species is permitted in accordance with state and federal regulations. A limited number of tags are offered for mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep hunts. All hunting is strictly prohibited within 3 miles of the Refuge Headquarters. We allow chukar hunting on the western slopes of Hart Mountain and Poker Jim Ridge. Artificial ground blinds are allowed to be erected one week prior to the start of the hunt season and must come down within 24 hours of harvest or at the end of the season. Hunting within the Refuge may be more restrictive than state regulations. Consult all current federal (www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting) and state regulations (www.dfw.state.or.us) prior to hunting on the Refuge.

All other wildlife is protected.



Possession of weapons follows all State regulations on the Refuge. Discharge of any weapon outside of an approved Refuge hunting season is prohibited.



Searching for, collecting, removing, disturbing, digging, or cutting resources such as artifacts, arrowheads, petroglyphs, any vegetation and any other objects of antiquity is strictly prohibited. Observe and enjoy Refuge resources in place. Rock collecting by hand from the surface only is limited to seven pounds of rock per day.



Getting Around

You can access the Refuge by various means, following these rules:



The Refuge is easily accessible by paved and maintained gravel roads from the nearest full service communities of Lakeview, Oregon (65 miles west) and Burns, Oregon via Hwy 395 (120 miles north). Gas and groceries are available in the smaller communities of Plush (10 miles west), Adel, Oregon (42 miles southwest) and seasonally in Frenchglen (28 miles east).



Vehicles (motorized and nonmotorized) are allowed ONLY on open routes. Roads marked as “CLOSED” are not open to vehicle access at any time. Vehicle use off road is absolutely prohibited.



Most roads are not maintained for passenger vehicles. Rain or snow can quickly make roads impassable—please avoid driving on muddy roads for your own safety and the protection of roads and fragile resources.



Hiking and Horseback Riding are allowed throughout most of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. While there are few designated routes or trails, most seasonal roads are closed to vehicles from December through early June and provide easy access free of vehicle travel.



The Post Meadows Campground is the only road accessible site for overnight stock use on the Refuge. To avoid introducing weeds, only pelletized feed or certified weed free hay is allowed. Additional information about popular hiking routes, backcountry camping permits and stock use are available at the Refuge Headquarters or the Refuge website at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart_mountain/



Remember to be Safe by Being Prepared

The Refuge covers a very remote and rugged expanse of the Great Basin high desert. Emergency services, roadside assistance, cell phone coverage and extra supplies are not readily available.

Before venturing off the primary road through the Refuge, think and be well informed and well equipped for back-country travel! Always carry a shovel, axe or Pulaski, tire chains, first aid kit, emergency food, and at least one extra gallon of water in your vehicle.

Proper preparation will enable you to enjoy the beauty and extremes of the high desert. Always carry plenty of water, sunscreen, and first aid supplies. You should have a good full size spare tire and make sure someone knows where you are traveling and when you will contact them.

More Information:

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge
38782 Hart Mountain Road
Plush, OR 97637

Refuge Headquarters: 541/947-2731
Lakeview Office: 541/947-3315
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart_mountain/

Accessibility Questions? Contact us at the numbers listed above or at sheldon-Hart@fws.gov

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