



Goose Hunt



Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2023

Welcome

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 national wildlife refuges located throughout the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of wildlife. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat and provide recreational opportunities where people can reconnect to nature.

Access

The refuge headquarters is located 6 miles southeast of the city of Las Vegas on Highway 281, at mile marker 4. Hunt blinds are located a ¼ to ½ mile walk from the parking areas. Access to hunt areas is by foot only.

WHEN: At 5:30 a.m. on the day of the hunt, refuge staff are at the visitor center for mandatory orientation and to loan out decoys. Shooting hours are ½ hour before legal sunrise to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Goose Hunt Area only (see map).

The refuge may close all or part of the hunt area including parking areas without notice to safeguard refuge resources or for safety reasons.

Daily Bag Limit

6 total geese in aggregate, not to exceed State species limit

Season

A hunter is assigned one hunt date:

Thursday, November 2
Thursday, November 9
Thursday, November 16
Thursday, November 20
Thursday, December 7
Thursday, December 14
Thursday, December 21

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, P.O. Box 399
Las Vegas, NM 87701
505-425-3581
fws.gov/refuge/las-vegas/
August 2023

General Information

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is seasonally open to hunting the following goose species: Canada goose, cackling goose, greater white-fronted goose, snow goose, and Ross's goose. Goose hunting is allowed by permit only, see details below.

Accessibility Information

Refuge employees strive to accommodate access to all hunters with disabilities. If you require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hunt please contact the refuge. Improvements are being made to increase accessibility of the hunt area. Parking Area B has an accessible gate and a compacted gravel road leads from the gate into the hunt area. A non-hunting assistant may accompany a hunter to assist with accessibility if needed.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of federal, 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). Shooting is only allowed from the assigned blinds. Each hunter may only possess six or less shells containing approved nontoxic shot while in the hunt area.

Hunting Regulations

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 and in accordance with applicable State of New Mexico regulations in addition to the conditions stated.

Hunters must have a federal duck stamp, State of New Mexico hunting license with a management and access validation and a Migratory Bird Permit Number in their possession. For additional information on licensing and regulations refer to the New Mexico Small Game & Waterfowl Rules & Information booklet or www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Hunters must check-in prior to hunting, preferably before sunrise, attend a mandatory orientation, and checkout by 1:30 p.m. at refuge headquarters. Hunting dogs are allowed for bird retrieval and are required to be under close control of their handlers at all times.

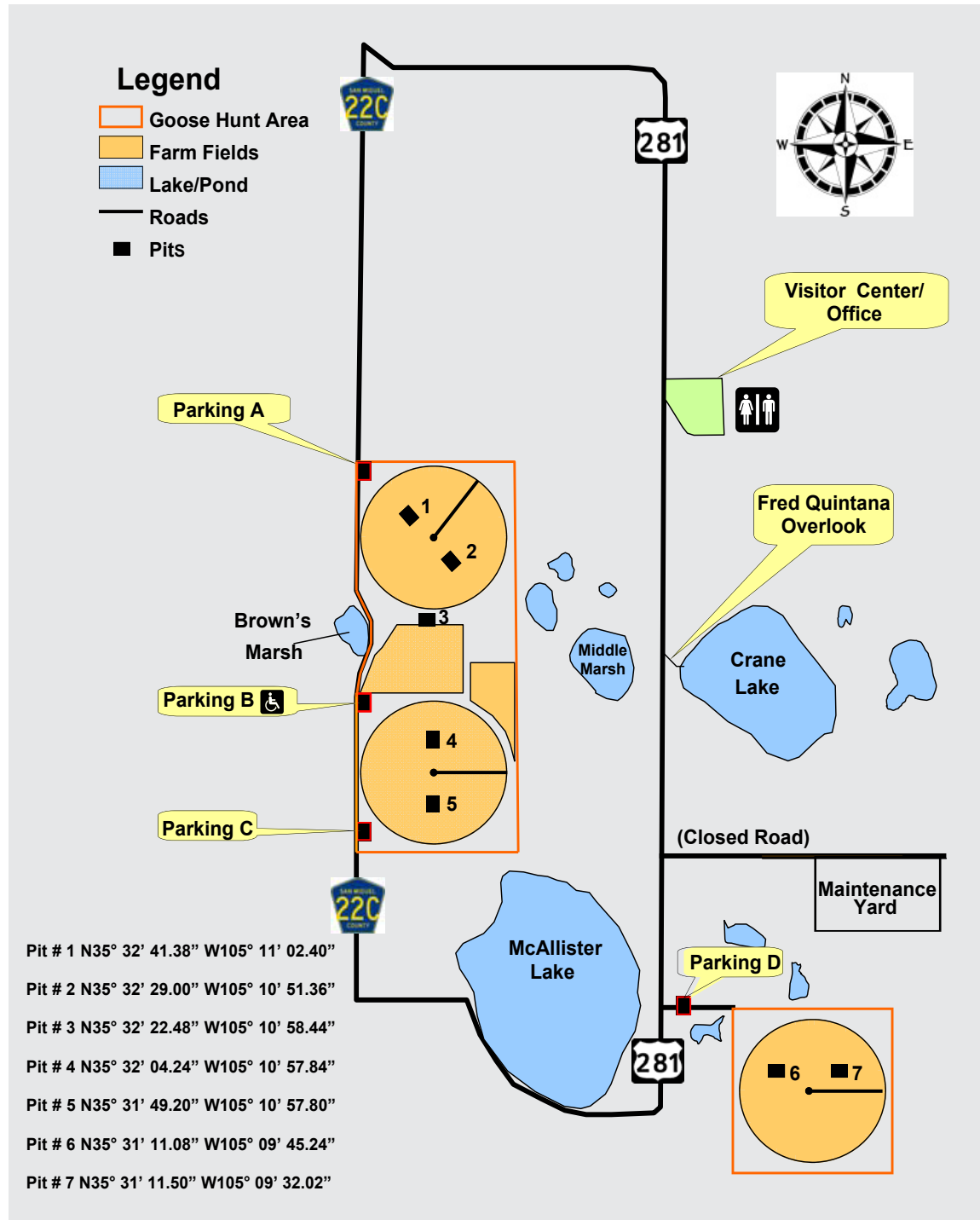
Permit Application, Fees, Blinds and Decoys

Applicants will be selected for permits by random drawing. See the refuge website for the application and instructions at www.fws.gov/refuge/Las_Vegas/ or call 505-425-3581. Applications must be postmarked by October 1, 2023. Each permit is valid for one day from 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Permits may not be transferred or dates changed.

Hunters who are successfully drawn on **October 16th, 2023** will be notified by mail or email with further instructions. Hunters are required to pay a \$15.00 (certified check, cashier's check, or money order only; NO CASH) user fee to receive their permit. Checks can be made out to USFWS. Payment can be made by mail or at the refuge office and is due by **November 2nd** (start of the first hunt). You may call after **October 16th** for confirmation.

On **October 16th**, hunters will be assigned one of six hunting blinds. Up to three hunters may apply and hunt together from the same blind. *Non-hunters and hunters not selected are not permitted to be in the blinds.* The blinds are four-foot deep pits with a moveable camouflage cover. Occasionally pop-up blinds are substituted for management or accessibility reasons. Upon request and approval, a hunter(s) may move to another blind and hunt area if the site and blind are not in use. Hunters are encouraged to bring their own decoys, but may borrow up to two dozen goose shell decoys per blind from refuge staff on the day of their hunt. All decoys and other gear must be carried in on foot and packed back out by the end of your hunt.

Goose Hunt Area



Prohibited Activities

- Hunting or taking any species other than Canada goose, cackling goose, greater white-fronted goose, snow goose, and Ross's goose.
- Hunting on any area not designated as the Goose Hunt Area
- Shooting while outside of the assigned blinds
- Possessing more than six shells while in the hunt area
- Target shooting/practice
- Hunting by falconry
- Possessing shells containing toxic shot while in the hunt area.
- Hunters or retrieval dogs entering closed areas to retrieve birds.
- Dogs off leash when not hunting.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants while hunting.
- Goose plucking or gutting, or littering of any kind