

# CHARLES M. RUSSELL AND U.L. BEND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 2015 HUNTING REGULATIONS

For up to date information and maps visit our refuge website:  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles\\_m\\_russell/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell/)

## General Information

### Mechanized Vehicles

- Off-road travel is prohibited. (This includes shoreline travel and travel to retrieve game.)
- Travel on closed roads is illegal.
- In winter conditions, snowmobiles and mechanized vehicles are allowed on the frozen ice of Fort Peck Reservoir downstream of Soda Creek Bay.
- Vehicles may be driven, using the most direct route, up to 100 yards from an open road to establish and utilize temporary overnight campsites, except in designated wilderness areas.

### All-terrain Vehicles

- ATVs include motorcycles, quadracycles, UTVs, etc.
- In order to operate on open Refuge roads, ATV operators must follow all mechanized vehicle regulations above, as well as the following regulations:

#### Montana resident ATV owners

- ATVs belonging to Montana residents must be street legal and must have a license plate, brake lights, and rear-view mirror.
- Operators must possess a proper driver's license

#### Non-resident ATV owners

- ATVs must be legally licensed from the state of origin. (If you can't license an ATV in your state, contact MT Fish Wildlife & Parks to get a temporary permit.)
- Operators must possess a proper driver's license.

### Bicycles

- Bicycles are allowed year round on all numbered roads only.

### Hunting

- 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).
- Firearms may ONLY be fired on the Refuge in conjunction with a legal hunt for which the hunter is licensed.
- Archery target shooting is allowed during archery season. All other target shooting is prohibited on the Refuge.
- Hunting on the Refuge is subject to Federal and State regulations. Consult all current Federal and State regulations prior to hunting on the Refuge. A Montana hunting license is required.
- Refuge specific hunting regulations are available on the Refuge website or at the Refuge headquarters and field stations by May 1 of each year.
- Hunting on the Refuge is permitted for mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, elk, coyotes, waterfowl, and upland game birds.
- All other wildlife is protected; this includes, but is not limited to, badger, bobcat, cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits, moose, mountain lions, prairie dogs, snakes, wolves and other wildlife.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Trapping is not allowed on the Refuge.
- The use of artificial lights to attract, search for, or spot wildlife is prohibited.
- Trail cameras are not allowed on the refuge.
- Youth hunts as described in the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Regulations are valid on the refuge.
- Non-motorized game carriers are allowed on the Refuge except on UL Bend designated wilderness areas.
- Portable tree stands are permitted. All portable tree stands must have a name, address, phone number, and automated licensing system (ALS) number visibly marked on the stand. Each hunter is limited to three stands. Portable tree stands can be installed on August 1 and must be removed by December 15 of each year. The construction or use of any permanent tree stand or ladder, and the use of nails, wire, or screw-in spikes, is prohibited.

## **Camping**

- Any camping unit and/or party is limited to 14 days within any 30 day period. Any property including camping equipment, boats, trailers, and other personal property left unattended for a period in excess of 72 hours is subject to removal.
- Select a safe place for campfires. Build only small fires, and make certain that your fire is completely out when you leave. Campfires must be attended at all times.
- Please check at any Refuge office or the Refuge web site for fire restrictions during dry periods.
- Collection and use of dead and downed wood for campfires is allowed on the Refuge. Cutting of standing timber, live or dead, is prohibited.
- All human waste, including tissue paper, must be buried immediately.
- Dumping of RV tanks (gray or black water) on the Refuge is prohibited.
- Help keep the land and wildlife healthy. Pack out all trash, and restore your campsite to a natural condition when you leave.

### **Developed Campgrounds**

- Developed camping areas near the Refuge are available at James Kipp Recreation Area (managed by the Bureau of Land Management Lewistown, MT), Crooked Creek, Devils Creek, Forchette Bay, The Pines, Nelson Creek, McGuire Creek, Rock Creek, Fort Peck Recreation Areas (all managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Peck, MT) and Hell Creek State Park/Recreation Area (managed by the State of Montana).

### **Dispersed Camping**

- Camping outside of a developed campground is allowed on the Refuge, unless the area is designated as closed, following the regulations below.
- Camping with a vehicle must take place within 100 yards of numbered roads that are designated as open.
- Direct access by mechanized vehicles from a numbered route is permitted to establish and utilize temporary overnight campsites within 100 yards of numbered roads designated as open. Select the most direct route to avoid damage to soils and vegetation.

### **Backcountry Camping**

- Backpacking and horse camping are allowed on the Refuge, except in closed areas. For more information, contact a Refuge office.

### **Hiking and Horseback Riding**

- Back-country travel, whether by foot or on horseback, requires special preparations and precautions. Drinking water is generally unavailable.
- Back-country travelers should be familiar with the isolated character of the Refuge and should be prepared for emergencies. Weather conditions can change rapidly – be prepared. Expertise with map and compass is recommended.
- Only certified noxious-weed-seed-free forage is allowed on the Refuge to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Contact a Montana State University county extension office for a list of approved forage vendors.
- All horses, mules, llamas, and other types of pack animals must be tied, hobbled, or confined while in camp. Pens are provided at some Army Corps of Engineers Recreation sites.

## **Alcoholic Beverages**

- Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 is prohibited. Buying, selling, providing, distributing, or allowing underage persons to possess or consume alcohol is prohibited.

## **Collection of Natural Items and Artifacts**

- Collection of antlers and animal skulls is illegal. These items are an important source of renewable calcium for elk, deer, and other wildlife on the Refuge.
- Removing any natural items such as fossils, rocks, dried wood, and black diamond willow from the Refuge is prohibited.
- There are many interesting historic buildings on the Refuge. Please enjoy them as they are, and do not remove parts of the buildings or artifacts found within or around them.

## **Aircraft**

- The use of aircraft over Refuge lands to disturb, harass, drive, pursue, rally or hunt wildlife or to locate wounded animals is strictly prohibited.
- Aircraft may not land on Refuge lands. Landing of fixed-winged aircraft is only allowed on the surface of Fort Peck Reservoir in the Landing Area and in Landing Zones that are defined in the Charles M. Russell NWR Guide Map.

# Regulations

All information pertains to the **Refuge portions** of Hunting Districts (HD) for deer and elk 410, 417, 621, 622, 631, 632, 652, and 700; antelope 480, 481, 620, 650, 700, and 900; and for bighorn sheep 482, 622, and 680. These regulations are **in addition** to state regulations. All hunting licenses and permits are issued by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. No additional licenses or permits are needed from CMR or UL Bend Refuge. Youth hunts as described in the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Regulations are valid on CMR. All wildlife species not specifically listed in these regulations are protected. This includes badger, bobcat, cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits, moose, mountain lions, prairie dogs, snakes, wolves and other wildlife. Trapping is not allowed on the Refuge.

## **WHITE-TAILED DEER:**

HD 410, 417, 621, 622, 631, 632, 652 and 700, Either-sex with General Deer License. B Licenses are valid on CMR.

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle - Season dates same as State season.

## **MULE DEER:**

The Refuge has more restrictive mule deer seasons in some hunting districts. Mule deer B licenses are NOT valid on the CMR. All mule deer seasons start on the date of the state seasons, but may end sooner.

HD 410, 417, Antlered buck only with General Deer A License.

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle - Three week season on Refuge. **October 24 - November 15, 2015.**

HD 621, 622, 631, 632, Antlered buck only with General Deer A License.

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle - Three week season on Refuge. **October 24 - November 15, 2015.**

HD 652, State Permit required with General Deer A License.

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle - Season dates same as State season.

HD 700, Antlered buck only with General Deer A License.

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle - Season dates same as State season.

## **ELK:**

State elk hunting Permits are valid on CMR for HD 410, 417, 621, 622, 631, 632 and 700. B Licenses are valid on CMR with exceptions below.

**State Permits 620-20 and 004-00 are not valid on CMR.**

Archery Only – Season dates same as State season.

Rifle – Season dates same as State season.

HD 652 - Closed to elk hunting on CMR.

## **ANTELOPE:**

State Licenses are valid on CMR for HD 480, 481, 620, 630, 650, 700, and 900.

Season dates same as State season.

## **BIGHORN SHEEP:**

State Licenses are valid on CMR for HD 482, 622, and 680.

Season dates same as State season.

**UPLAND GAME BIRDS, MOURNING DOVES AND TURKEYS:**

Season dates same as State season. Steel or non-toxic shot is encouraged, but not required.

*Note: The use of dogs for hunting waterfowl and upland game birds is permitted. Dogs must be under the control of their owner at all times and not be left unattended at any time.*

**WATERFOWL:**

Season dates same as State season. Steel or non-toxic shot is required. Hunters must use and may possess only steel or other approved non-toxic shot in the field while hunting waterfowl on the Refuge

**COYOTES:**

Coyote hunting is allowed from the first day of the antelope rifle season through March 1. Coyotes may be hunted only from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset (no permit required). Coyotes cannot be hunted with the aid of dogs, aircraft, or mechanized vehicles.

**All wildlife species not specifically listed in these regulations are protected. This includes, but is not limited to, badger, bobcat, cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits, moose, mountain lions, prairie dogs, snakes, wolves and other wildlife.**

**Additional Information:**

**Accessible Wildlife Viewing and Hunting Blinds**

The Refuge has two hunting/viewing blinds available for use. Both of these blinds are open to the general public with the understanding that visitors with disabilities have priority use. They are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. For detailed information, visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Charles\\_M\\_Russell/visit/visitor\\_activities/Accessible\\_Blinds.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Charles_M_Russell/visit/visitor_activities/Accessible_Blinds.html)

- The Hell Creek Blind is located in the bottoms of Hell Creek, approximately twenty-five miles north of Jordan, MT, close to Hell Creek State Park. For more information on the Hell Creek Blind, call the Jordan Field Station or check the Refuge web site.
- The Manning Blind is located along the Missouri River (Manning Bottoms) on the western side of the Refuge and is approximately 10 miles east of Highway 191 and the Fred Robinson Bridge. For more information on the Manning Blind, call the Sand Creek Field Station or check the Refuge web site.