



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

# National Elk Refuge

## 2016 Elk Hunting

### Information and Regulations

#### Background

Elk hunt management on the National Elk Refuge is designed to achieve optimum herd size as determined through a cooperative effort between National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department managers.

#### General Information

Elk hunting on the National Elk Refuge (Hunt Area 77) is permitted from October 15 through December 16, 2016, unless the season for Hunt Area 77 closes earlier:

Ten hunt periods will be available to hunters. Hunt periods are generally 1 week long:

- Period #1: October 15 - 16  
(Youth hunt only. See p. 4)
- Period #2: October 17 - 24
- Period #3: October 25 - November 1
- Period #4: November 1 - 8
- Period #5: November 8 - 15
- Period #6: November 15 - 22
- Period #7: November 22 - 29
- Period #8: November 29 - December 6
- Period #9: December 6 - 13
- Period #10: December 13 - 16

During the hunt application process, hunters do not need to apply to hunt in a specific unit within the National Elk Refuge. Hunters must understand and comply with weapons restrictions based on the area where they will be hunting.

"Any Elk" permits will be issued during the first two hunt periods only for hunters applying with a full price license. "Cow/Calf" only permits will be issued for the remaining eight hunt periods (October 25 through December 16). Hunters in the Limited Range Weapons hunt area are limited to antlerless only elk during all 10 hunt periods.

#### Web Updates

The National Elk Refuge will post any hunting updates on the Refuge's web site at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_elk\\_refuge/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge/), including information on the permit application process, alternate permits, drawing times and dates, etc. Please check the web site for updates throughout the season.

#### Online Permit Application Process

The application process for National Elk Refuge elk hunting permits is conducted in cooperation with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department Access Yes Program. Applications are available at <http://bit.ly/1jppFQL>.

A direct link to the permit application web site is also provided on the elk hunting page of the National Elk Refuge's web site at <http://1.usa.gov/1kIXaKi>.

#### Application Information

There are four options for obtaining a Refuge elk hunting permit. Each of the options is described below.

Hunters attempting to fill multiple valid licenses during the same hunt period only need to apply for one Refuge permit.

##### Option 1: Initial Draw

To apply for an elk hunting permit to hunt on the National Elk Refuge, hunters must complete an application online (see Online Permit Application Process) between August 15 – September 23, initially applying for only one hunt period. The results of the computerized random draw will be posted on the application web site by 11:00 am on September 26.

##### Option 2: Leftover Permits

After 11:00 am on September 26, the online system will continue to be active to allow access to any permits that were not issued during the initial random draw. Any unissued (leftover) permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, limited to one leftover permit per person, regardless of whether or not they were successful in the initial September 26 drawing.

##### Option 3: Alternate Permits

Alternate permits differ from leftover permits; alternate permits do not become available until after the season has begun. Alternate permits will be issued each Monday of the hunt season, excluding the first two hunt periods (October 15 – 24).

To disperse hunters over the hunt period, half of the alternate permits issued will be valid for Tuesday – Friday of the respective hunt period, and the remaining half will be valid for Saturday – Tuesday of the same hunt period.

Alternate permits will be issued online each week through a lottery system that uses a computerized random draw. Applicants will use the same online system outlined above (see Online Permit Application Process).

Hunters must apply for an alternate permit between Friday at 9:00 am and Sunday at 11:59 pm MST for the upcoming hunt period. Hunters will designate during the application process if they want to be considered for a Tuesday – Friday or a Saturday – Tuesday alternate permit for the upcoming hunt period. The results of the weekly computerized random draw for alternate permits will be posted on the application web site by 11:00 am on the following Mondays:

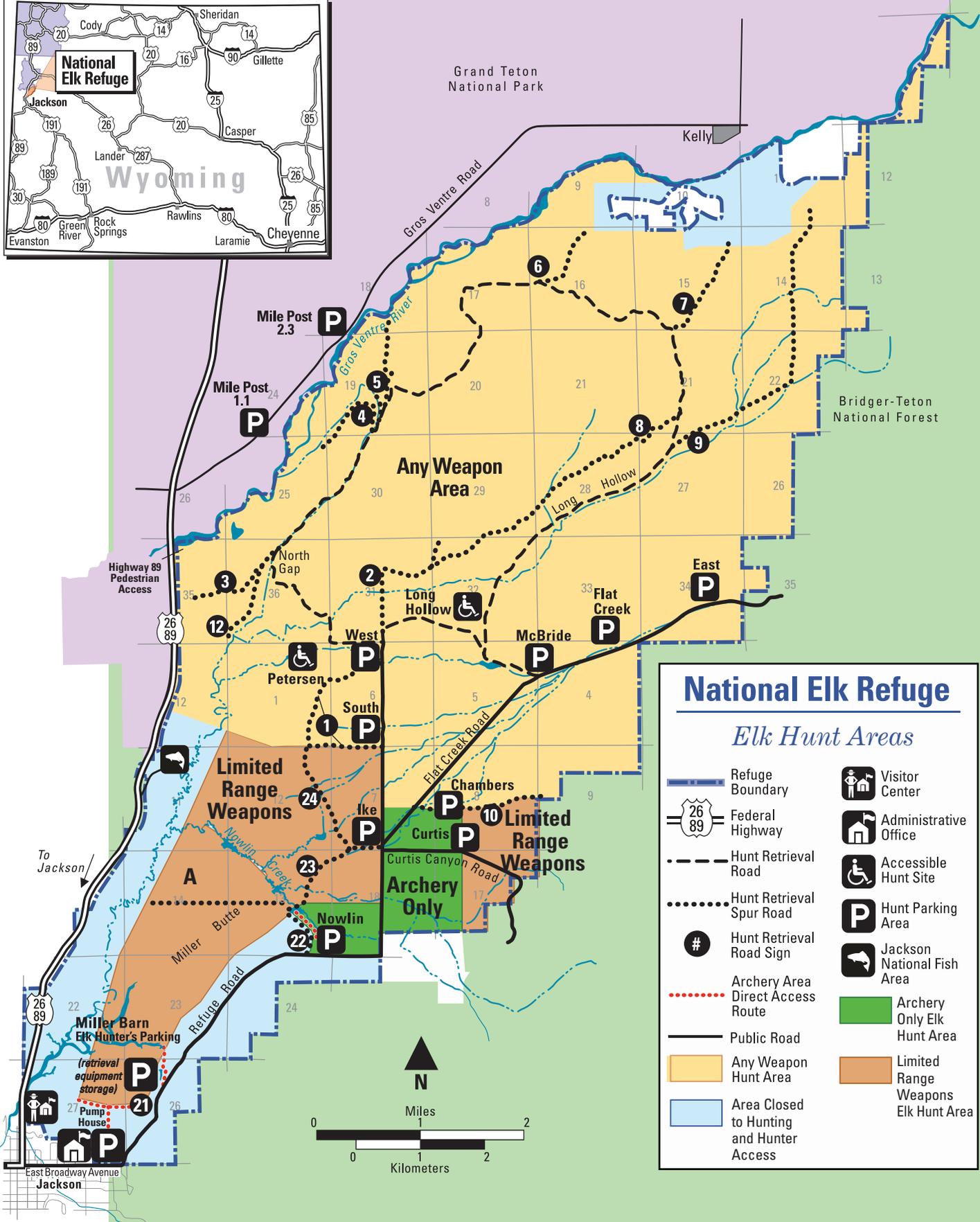
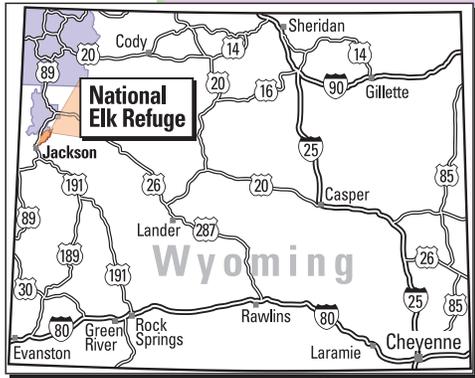
- October 24
- October 31
- November 7
- November 14
- November 21
- November 28
- December 5
- December 12

The number of alternate permits issued will vary, depending on hunter harvest rates and participation.

Individuals who were already successful in obtaining any elk permit for another hunt period may still apply for an alternate permit.

##### Option 4: Daily Field Permits

Later in the season, and generally during the last four hunt periods (November 22-December 16), daily field permits may be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters can call a recorded message at 307/201 5437 to be notified if field permits are available.



### National Elk Refuge

#### Elk Hunt Areas

	Refuge Boundary		Visitor Center
	Federal Highway		Administrative Office
	Hunt Retrieval Road		Accessible Hunt Site
	Hunt Retrieval Spur Road		Hunt Parking Area
	Hunt Retrieval Road Sign		Jackson National Fish Area
	Archery Area Direct Access Route		Archery Only Elk Hunt Area
	Public Road		Limited Range Weapons Elk Hunt Area
	Any Weapon Hunt Area		
	Area Closed to Hunting and Hunter Access		

Only field permits will be issued on the Refuge Road near the 90° turn at Twin Creek.

Daily field permits will give licensed hunters immediate access to the Refuge hunt once their permit is signed. These permits are valid for the day of issuance only.

Decisions to issue daily field permits will be based on the number of current hunters and the safe dispersal of hunters and animals. There is no guarantee these permits will be available.

### Special Regulations for Elk Hunting on the National Elk Refuge (Hunt Area 77)

- All State of Wyoming hunting regulations (available online at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/regulations>) are in effect and will be enforced. Hunters must review all regulations prior to hunting on the Refuge. Refuge hunting permits may be revoked in the event of improper hunter conduct or violation of regulations, and future Refuge hunting privileges could be denied.
- Hunters are responsible for knowing and observing hunt boundaries (see map). Much of the Any Weapon and Limited Range Weapons hunt boundaries are identified by signs and posts. The Any Weapon hunt area is bounded on the west by the Highway 26/89 fence line and on the north by the south bank of the Gros Ventre River main channel.
- The following items must be in the hunter's possession while elk hunting on the Refuge:
  1. Refuge elk hunting permit
  2. Valid State elk hunting license (excluding limited quota archery only)
  3. Hunter Safety Card if required by State law
  4. Wyoming Conservation Stamp
  5. Wyoming Elk Feed Ground Special Management Permit
- The Wyoming Hunter Mentor Program is valid on the National Elk Refuge. Contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for further information on the program or apply at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Education/HunterMentor-Program>
- 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).

- A permitted elk hunter is allowed one assistant to hunt with them. The assistant must stay within 50 yards of the hunter, unless retrieving. Family members under age 18 are exempt from this rule.
- Hunters are limited to a maximum of seven cartridges in possession per day per license.
- Hunters are only allowed into hunt areas on the dates listed on their valid permit.
- A fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations must be worn by anyone in a hunt area. Hunters need to ensure that anyone accompanying them is compliant with this regulation.
- Legal shooting times are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- Certified weed-free livestock feed is required on the Refuge.
- The Any Weapon and Limited Range Weapons hunt areas each have distinct weapons that are allowed. Hunters are responsible for knowing which weapons can be used in the hunt area they are accessing.

#### *Limited Range Weapons Area*

- Hunters in the Archery Only area are restricted to and must carry archery equipment only.
- Hunters present in the Limited Range Weapons area must carry and are restricted to handguns, muzzleloading rifles, shotguns with slugs, and archery equipment as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.
- All handguns must meet the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's definition of a legal firearm for the taking of big game and must use straight-walled cartridges with a barrel length no longer than 12 inches.

#### *Any Weapon Area*

Hunters in the Any Weapon area may hunt with any legal weapon as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for the taking of big game.

#### *Prohibited activities include:*

- Parking along Refuge roads.
- Intentional herding, harassment, or moving of animals.
- Target or practice shooting.
- Shooting wildlife other than elk.
- Shooting from within parking areas or Refuge roads.
- Overnight camping or parking, including in the parking lots or hunt areas.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Collection of specimens, including but not limited to antlers, skulls, and artifacts.

### Additional Regulations for Archery Hunting on the Refuge

- Archery hunters on the Refuge must wear a fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations.
- Archery hunters are exempt from the hunter safety certificate requirement.
- Hunters within the Archery Only hunt area (see map) must maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards from residences

### Refuge Access and Travel

- The main access to and from Refuge elk hunt areas is through the main Refuge entrance at the end of East Broadway Avenue in Jackson.
- Additional parking areas at Milepost 1.1 and 2.3 on the Gros Ventre Road are available for Refuge hunters pursuing elk with a valid license. However, retrieval of elk will not be permitted back to the Gros Ventre Road parking areas.
- For the 2016 hunt season, elk hunters may use the Highway 89 Pedestrian Access gate. However, elk hunters should not park in the gate area.
- Vehicles parked on the Refuge must be in a designated hunt parking area.
- Hunters may not exit vehicles or be dropped off on roads between hunt parking areas.
- Several of the designated Limited Range Weapons hunter parking areas are outside of the hunt boundary. Hunters must travel on the direct access route from the parking lot into the hunt area (see map). Other areas of the Refuge outside of the hunt boundaries are closed to hunter access and use, including elk retrieval.
- Driving off designated roads is prohibited.
- Horses and bicycles are permitted in a hunt area, but bicycles must remain on designated retrieval roads.
- ATVs must be registered, insured, and operated by a licensed driver. ATVs may only be driven on Refuge roads to one of the hunter parking areas and are not allowed on Refuge retrieval roads.
- Bear spray is recommended for all persons participating in the Refuge hunt program.

**Youth Hunters**

A special youth elk hunt is held in both the Any Weapon and Limited Range Weapons hunt areas during the first hunt period (October 15-16). During this time, permits for the Any Weapon area will be issued only to youths age 12-17. Youths must be accompanied by an experienced non-hunting adult during the special youth elk hunt and will be subject to State and Refuge regulations.

During all other weeks of the elk hunting season:

- Youths age 12 - 13 may hunt in the Any Weapon hunt area if they are accompanied by an experienced hunting or non-hunting adult.
- Youths age 14 - 17 may hunt in the Any Weapon hunt area and do not need to be accompanied by an adult.
- Youths age 12 - 17 may hunt in the Limited Range Weapons hunt area if they are accompanied by an experienced hunting or non-hunting adult.

**Retrieval of Harvested Animals**

The following information will assist successful hunters in retrieval of elk:

- Designated retrieval roads will be open to vehicle travel to retrieve elk from 10:00 am until dark.
- Elk should be dragged to the nearest retrieval road (see map). Hunters must return by the most direct route to the parking lot.
- If a hunter's animal crosses from the National Forest onto the Refuge, or if retrieval would be more efficient through the Refuge, hunters should call the National Elk Refuge hunt line at 307 / 201 5437 and leave a message detailing their situation and plan for recovery. Following that, the hunter may move the animal with consideration to limiting resource damage.
- Note that retrieval of elk to Gros Ventre Road parking areas is not allowed. Hunters must relocate their vehicles to within the Refuge boundary to retrieve an animal.
- Successful hunters may not transport other hunters into a hunt area. Only the successful hunter and helper(s) may be in the vehicle.
- The Refuge will not maintain wheeled carts and sleds to assist hunters. Any available equipment will be at the Miller Barn for use on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Hunters must move all animal parts (gut piles and carcasses) to at least 100 feet from parking areas.

- Commercial retrieval services may be available for a fee. Current businesses authorized to operate on the Refuge are Double Diamond Tag-n-Drag (307 / 413 7226) and Trefren Outfitters (307 / 883 3400).
- Ear tags and radio collars from harvested animals must be returned to the Administrative Offices.
- Refuge roads or parking areas may be temporarily closed due to inclement weather or management considerations.

**Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance**

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department will be conducting Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance again this season. Results from samples submitted by hunters can be tracked online. Contact patrol officers for further information.

**Harvest Reports**

A blank harvest report for the National Elk Refuge will be provided with your permit. Your completed harvest information is critical to the Refuge's hunting program. Please return the harvest report to one of the locations listed on the document.

**Hunters with Disabilities**

The National Elk Refuge encourages hunters with disabilities to participate in the elk hunt program and seeks to afford them reasonable accommodation for the activity.

Hunters who have both a Wyoming Game & Fish Department Permanently Disabled Hunter Permit and a National Elk Refuge hunting permit are eligible to reserve a designated accessible hunt site. Reservations must be made at the Refuge Administrative Offices at 675 E. Broadway in Jackson. The reservation will be valid for the length of the permit. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department disabled hunter companion permit is valid on the Refuge.

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 the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 307/ 733 9212, or the U.S. Department of the Interior; Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**Contact Information**

**Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center**  
 532 North Cache Street  
 Jackson, WY 83001  
 307 / 734 9378

**National Elk Refuge Administrative Office**  
 PO Box 510 or 675 E. Broadway Avenue  
 Jackson, WY 83001  
 307 / 733 9212  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_elk\\_refuge/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_elk_refuge/)

**Wyoming Game & Fish Department**  
 PO Box 67 or 420 North Cache Street  
 Jackson, WY 83001  
 307 / 733 2321

**Teton Interagency Dispatch**  
 307 / 739 3301

**Stop Poaching Hotline 1 877 / 943 3847**

**Double Diamond Tag-n-Drag**  
 307 / 413 7226

**Trefren Outfitters**  
 307 / 883 3400

**In an emergency, dial 911**

**For State relay service TTY / Voice: 711**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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

**August 2016**



**Refuge Signs**  
 Know Their Meaning

<p><i>Refuge boundary sign entry by permission only.</i></p>	<p><i>Area off limits to the public unless otherwise specified.</i></p>	<p><i>Area open to hunting at specific times.</i></p>