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.

Elk Hunting Regulations

Hunters using archery can access/hunt both the Archery Elk Hunting Area and General Elk Hunting Area.

- 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

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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