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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ouray

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Welcome

Ouray National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1960 on land purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with revenue from the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (Federal Duck Stamps).

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ouray NWR is one of more than 560 Refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a system of lands set aside to conserve wildlife and habitat for people to enjoy today and for generations to come.

General Information

- The Refuge headquarters is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, except on Federal holidays.
- Overnight camping or parking and open fires are not allowed on Refuge lands.
- Disturbing, injuring, or removing plants, animals, natural objects (including shed antlers), or artifacts is prohibited. These items should be left for the enjoyment of all.
- Please pack out any trash including shell casings, ammunition boxes and fishing line.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges 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).
- All vehicles, including ATV's, must stay on established roads.

Refuge Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted for ducks, geese, coots, pheasants, deer, elk, and turkeys ONLY in designated areas in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

Duck, goose, coot, pheasant, and deer hunting is open for all State seasons but there are seasons and weapons restrictions on Refuge elk and turkey hunts.

The Refuge is open to waterfowl, pheasant, turkey, deer and elk youth hunts; the general and Uintah Basin extended archery elk hunt and the limited late-season antlerless elk hunts (starting December 1st). The Refuge is also open to State- managed depredation and disabled/other elk hunts. The Refuge is closed for the general any-legal weapon (rifle) and muzzle loader bull elk hunts.

The Refuge is open to turkey hunting for youth hunters only during the youth and general turkey seasons. The Refuge is closed for all limited-entry turkey hunts (including the limited-entry youth hunt).

HUNTING ANY OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES IS PROHIBITED. There are areas within the Refuge that are closed to hunting (see map).

Hours

During hunting season, the Refuge is open from 1 ½ hours before sunrise to 1 ½ hours after sunset. Public entry and use on the Refuge is prohibited during closed hours.

Hunting Areas

- Portions of the Refuge are leased Tribal land (see map). However, a special hunting permit issued by the Ute Tribe is required.
- The river, sandbars, and islands within the Refuge boundary are closed to hunting.
- The northern one-third of Wyasket Bottom is open to pheasant, deer, elk and turkey hunting.
- Leota Bottom is the only area on the Refuge that is open to duck, goose and coot hunting, but waterfowl hunting within 100 yards of the Green River in Leota Bottom is prohibited.
- Leota Bottom is also open for pheasant, deer, elk, and turkey hunting. Access into this area is limited to foot, bicycle, horseback, canoes and small boats with electric motors only.
- Sheppard Bottom is closed to all hunting
- Johnson Bottom is open to pheasant, deer, elk, and turkey hunting.
- Portions of Brennan Bottom that are on the Refuge are open to pheasant, deer, elk and turkey hunting.

Special Shot Restrictions

- Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed in the field while hunting waterfowl, pheasants, and turkeys. Possession of lead shot while in the field on the Refuge is prohibited.
- The hunting of waterfowl with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited.

Blinds and Other Uses

- Hunters may use portable blinds or blinds constructed of natural dead vegetation, temporary tree stands, or climbing devices that do not require drilling or nailing into a tree. Hunters must remove all blinds/stands no later than the last day for which you have a permit.
- The accessible hunting blind in Leota Bottom is not in service (until further notice) due to flood damage.
- The Refuge prohibits use of bait or hunting over bait
- The Refuge prohibits the use of trail or game cameras.

Refuge Fishing Regulations

Fishing is allowed on Refuge lands that border the Green River, but fishing within the Refuge impoundments is not allowed. All State of Utah and Tribal fishing regulations apply.

- Fishing with the aid of trout lines, bows and arrows, spears, spear guns, cross bows, and firearms is prohibited.
- A fishing platform provides an accessible river fishing opportunity along the auto tour route in Sheppard Bottom (see map).
- Please be aware that razorback suckers, Colorado pikeminnows, humpback chubs, and bonytails are endangered fish species found in the river and must be returned to the river unharmed if accidentally caught.

Accessibility Information

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 7-1-1 for a free connection to the State transfer relay service or 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 (435) 545- 2522, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1949 C Street, Washington, D.C. 20240.

(Revised: July 30, 2014)

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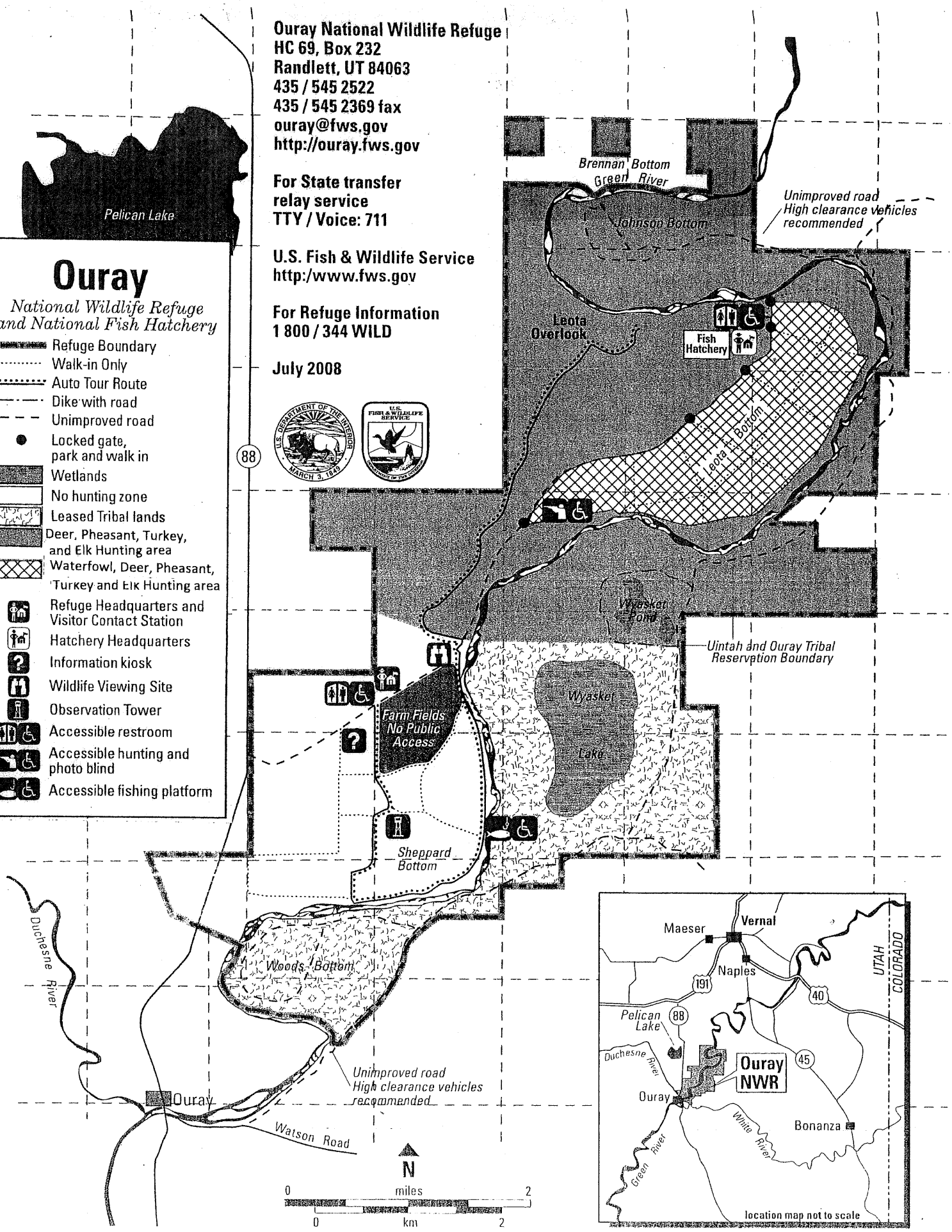
For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

July 2008

Ouray

National Wildlife Refuge and National Fish Hatchery

- Refuge Boundary
- Walk-in Only
- Auto Tour Route
- Dike with road
- Unimproved road
- Locked gate, park and walk in
- Wetlands
- No hunting zone
- Leased Tribal lands
- Deer, Pheasant, Turkey, and Elk Hunting area
- Waterfowl, Deer, Pheasant, Turkey and Elk Hunting area
- Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Contact Station
- Hatchery Headquarters
- Information kiosk
- Wildlife Viewing Site
- Observation Tower
- Accessible restroom
- Accessible hunting and photo blind
- Accessible fishing platform